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Kent on Sunday

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WEEKLY FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

No 639

EXCLUSIVE



London and South of England Media Awards

Kaddy's perfect gift

TV presenter prepares for Christmas with newborn daughter Albany



NEWS

KCC faces yet more cuts
Blow as authority sees funding slashed again

RELIGION

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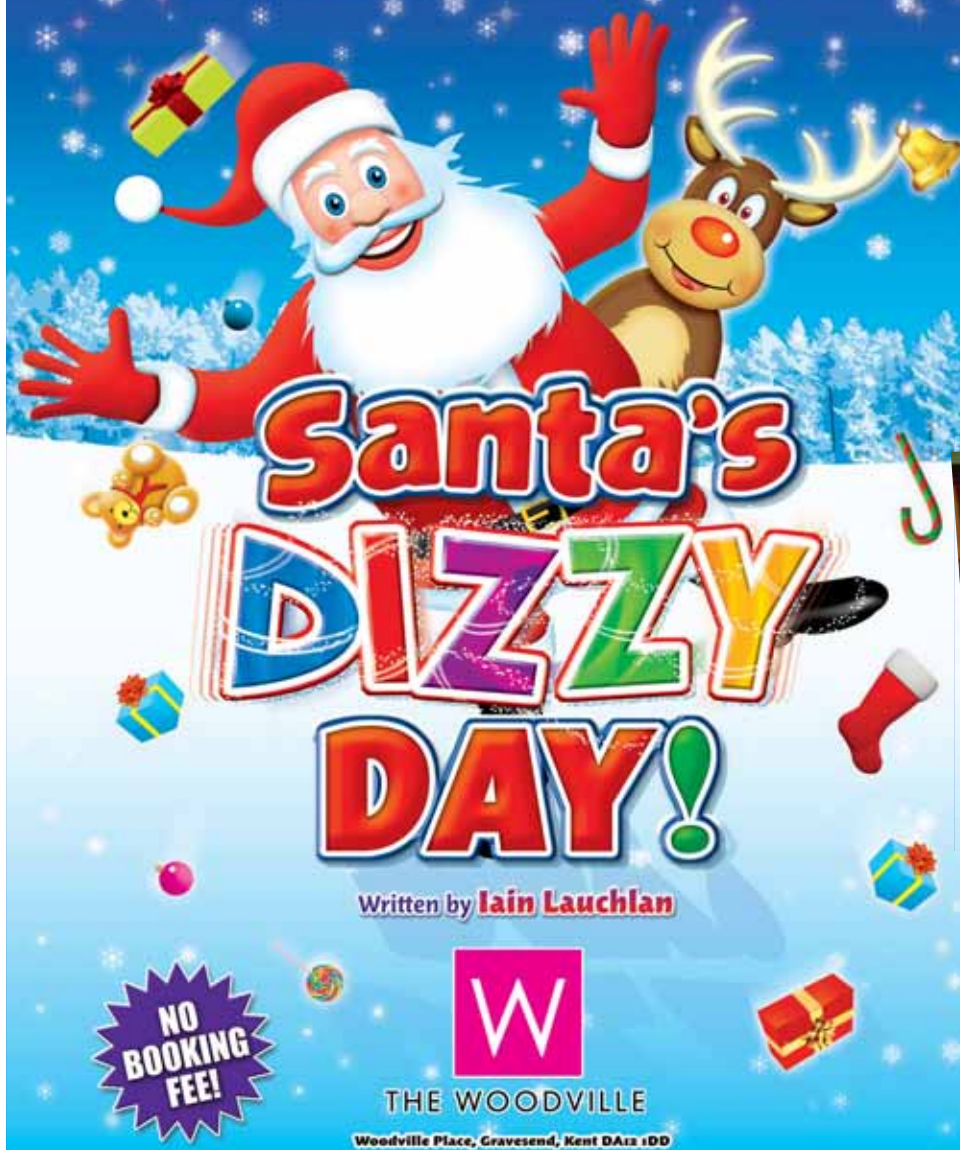
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Wishing you all a very happy Christmas time

FOR even the most cynical, there remains a genuine magic about Christmas.

But then as the one festival of the year which unites us all, it is perhaps of little surprise.

For the majority of us, it will be a time to reunite with friends and family; to relax and soak up the very simple pleasures of our loved ones' company and good spirits.

The memories of our childhood will flood back in - the thrill of receiving gifts, the utter excitement of Father Christmas paying us a whistle-stop visit, and the nostalgia all that conjures up.

It is, therefore, also fitting that we remember those no longer with us. We should not mourn their passing, but use Christmas as an opportunity to celebrate their lives, their contribution to who we are and what we became. It is never easy, but if people live on in your



Editor **Chris Britcher**

memory then they truly never really die.

Of course, for some, the pressures this season brings can be unbearable - inside we take a look at some of the organisations who can offer you assistance when you need it most.

We also take a look at those who will be working on Christmas Day - providing essential services to keep our communities safe and secure.

For now, though, everyone at Kent on Sunday would like to extend a special message of goodwill and

season's greetings to each and every one of our readers - and pay a special tribute to our loyal advertisers. You all play a major part in everything we seek to achieve here and your support is not only vital but hugely appreciated.

So here's wishing you all a very happy Christmas and we'll be back next weekend for a special New Year's edition.

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KCC must make further savings after grant is cut

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

KENT County Council is set to face the squeeze yet again after another hefty reduction of its main source of revenues.

The authority was informed this week it will face a 1.8 per cent reduction in the year 2015-16. And there is no sign of any let up in the cuts until at least 2018/19.

This equates to around £53.8 million less than last year's grant, on top of the savings of £269 million that the council has made over the last three years.

It means services and staff will face yet more uncertainty.

The public will be asked their views on the services that are most important to them and where these savings should be made.

John Simmonds, KCC's cabinet member for finance, said: "The extent of the challenge is clear for all to see and the decisions we make in our budget will affect everyone in Kent.

"That's why we want as many residents as possible to take part in our budget consultation.

"This is the toughest budget



LEADER: Kent County Council leader Paul Carter set to further cost cutting

we've ever faced."

The majority of local authority funding comes from central government with council tax making up around a quarter of the revenue. That, inevitably, will rise again - although the increase is capped by the Government.

Leader of KCC, Paul Carter, said: "With family incomes still stretched we would, of course, prefer not to increase council tax next year. Unfortunately we don't

think this is possible. With a further £93m to save next year alone we have to make significant savings and efficiencies on how we spend public money.

"As well as asking which services to prioritise when we make savings - and further savings currently unidentified - we are asking residents whether they would accept a small increase to council tax of 1.99 per cent, which is equivalent to £19 per year on a

band C property/average household."

Not everyone is supportive of the increase though. John O'Connell, director of the Tax Payers' Alliance said: "We need to balance the books, but we must find savings in existing budgets rather than piling up the pain on the backs of hard-pressed taxpayers.

"There should be no sacred cows as we look to make the savings we need."

Banksy original fails to sell at US auction after artist fails to verify it

A PIECE of artwork daubed on the wall of a building in Folkestone by celebrated mystery graffiti artist Banksy - but then ripped down and shipped to the US to be sold at auction - has failed to find a seller.

The work, Art Buff, is almost certainly a Banksy original, after it appeared overnight in the town in September, and was then featured on the artist's official website.

But it appears the artist may be expressing his displeasure - after the mysterious agency he uses to verify his work, in a bid to prevent others passing off imitations as originals, Pest Control, refused to provide the necessary certificate of authenticity.

As a consequence, it failed to sell. It had been hoped it would fetch around £500,000.

It was designed to coincide with the Folkestone Triennial, the arts festival which ran earlier this year.

But art fans were left fuming after it was removed from the wall by the building's owner, and sent to Miami

in an effort to sell it to the highest bidder.

The buildings owners were the Godden family - relatives of the late theme park owner Jimmy Godden. They say proceeds from the sale will go to charity.

But without authentication, it is unlikely to attract big bucks.

Pest Control, which says it liaises with the artist - whose identity remains a secret - says that currently there are no Banksy originals on sale anywhere in the world.

Art Buff failed to sell at Art Basel Miami and is believed to be going back to the Keszler Gallery in New York City.

Ioannis Ioannou at the Folkestone Creative Foundation, which was behind the triennial, said: "Of course it is genuine. It has not been authenticated because possibly they don't want it to be sold. They don't want certain dealers to make money out of it, or they don't approve of the fact it was removed in the first place."

Flood conference to create a splash over water threat

A MAJOR conference to examine the lessons learned from the floods which caused chaos across Kent this time last year, will take place in February.

Organised by the Kent branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), in partnership with Kent County Council, Flooding: Fears, Facts and the Future, takes place at County Hall in Maidstone on February 6.

CPRE Kent vice president Richard Knox-Johnston said: "We feel it is vital to look at what has happened since those disastrous floods and what prevention work is planned and then to assess whether this will be enough to prevent the terrible damage to homes and land in the future."

For details on how to attend, ring 01233 714540.

Don't go to A&E unless it's a real emergency this Xmas

HOSPITAL bosses across the county are urging those in need of medical treatment over the Christmas period not to attend A&E departments unless it is absolutely necessary.

Winter weather and the festive season combines to put an extra strain on hospitals across the county.

The NHS has robust plans to provide the right treatment for

people who are seriously ill but is appealing to people who don't have a serious or life-threatening illness or injury to avoid going to A&E and to seek care elsewhere.

It is estimated that between 15 and 25 per cent of people attending A&E could be treated by another NHS service. For advice on where to receive treatment, call 111. In an emergency, always call 999.



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Gills fan banned from football after racist slurs

A GILLINGHAM supporter who racially abused an opposing player has been banned from attending any professional football match for three years after pleading guilty at Medway Magistrates' Court.

Tony Edward Jackson, 33, of Medway Road, Sheerness, was arrested during a League One game at Priestfield between the Gills and Peterborough United,

on September 16, after being heard to shout racist abuse at a player as he was substituted.

He was later charged with a racially aggravated public order offence, which he admitted. In addition to the banning order he was given a community order to carry out 40 hours of unpaid work within 12 months, £85 costs and a £60 victim surcharge.



HIT: Timothy Spall in Mr Turner

Turner film in the running for top awards

A MOVIE about the artist JMW Turner, shot in a variety of locations in and around the county, has been nominated for a string of awards by the London Film Critics' Circle.

Mr Turner hit the big screen earlier this year, focusing on the life of the artist for whom Margate held such a special place.

Not only did he live there, but the Turner Contemporary gallery was named in his honour.

Timothy Spall, who portrayed the artist, has been nominated for best actor.

The film leads the way for the 35th annual awards ceremony. Directed by Mike Leigh, the movie has seven nominations in total, including being in the running for Film of the Year and British Film of the Year.

The winners will be announced in a glitzy award ceremony in London on January 18.

Parts of the film were filmed on location at Stangate Creek, and the Historic Dockyard in Chatham - which saw the HMS Gannet double for a pleasure vessel on the Thames.

It was also used for scenes where Turner is tied to the mast of a ship in a storm to make some sketches for his painting Snow Storm - Steam-Boat off a Harbour's Mouth.

Street lighting set for a £40m overhaul in latest scheme to reduce costs

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

KENT County Council plans to invest £40 million to convert every street light under its control to a centrally-controlled LED lighting system.

It claims the move will slash energy consumption and carbon emissions by 60 per cent - and deliver annual savings of some £5.3million.

However, don't expect to see any changes just yet.

The council has worked with Salix, an agency of the Department of Energy and Climate Change, to secure an interest-free loan of £22 million. But now it has to secure the rest of the funding before the project can push ahead.

Options include securing a grant from the European Union.

Street lighting continues to be an often controversial issue due to the authority's decision to cut the lights in a number of areas in the early hours of the morning. That is part of a trial process which is due for re-



BEAM ME UP: Lights to go LED?

newal in the middle of 2015. The turning off of 70,000 lights between midnight and 5.30am is saving the authority around £1m a year.

This LED scheme is running sepa-

ately as a long-term plan to upgrade the lighting to take advantage of the technology and cheaper prices.

The new light emitting diode (LED) lamps will be controlled by a central management system that enables lights to be monitored remotely and detect faults as soon as they develop, so that they can be repaired quickly.

David Brazier, KCC cabinet member for environment and transport, explained: "LED lighting had been prohibitively expensive, but has recently fallen significantly in cost, with manufacturers now guaranteeing their products for up to 20 years.

"The average increase for energy prices this year has been around 11 per cent. These increases will be further exacerbated by a carbon tax - adding considerably to our costs.

"LED lights are significantly more efficient than traditional lights.

"In addition to saving council taxpayer money, it would also mean a better service for residents and businesses in the county."

Rural phone and web investment boost

MOBILE phone coverage is set for a major boost after the four main network operators confirmed a £5 billion investment.

The landmark deal, announced on Thursday, will guarantee call and text coverage on all networks across 90 per cent of the UK's geographical area by 2017, and coverage including internet access to 85 per cent by the same date.

In return, the Government has vowed to make it easier for new masts and other infrastructure to be built - something the Countryside Alliance has long campaigned for.

The Government will also allow many Government buildings to be used as sites for mobile infrastructure and will take operators' concerns into account when they review the fees mobile networks pay to Government.

Sarah Lee, head of policy at the Countryside Alliance, said: "This investment will really help to ensure that rural businesses and households are not left behind in the digital revolution."

Sotheby's sells work by Churchill for £1.8m

A PAINTING by former prime minister Sir Winston Churchill, depicting a pond at his Kent home, sold at auction this week for £1.8 million.

Originally painted in 1932, the artwork of the goldfish pond at Chartwell, more than doubled estimates before the sale which valued it at around £400,000 to £600,000.

It was described as one of his finest works.

The sale followed the death in May of Mary Soames, aged 91, his last surviving child.

It formed part of a collection of 15 paintings by the wartime leader which went under the hammer at London auction house Sotheby's on Wednesday.

In total, the collection raised £15.4m.

The legendary character lived in Chartwell for many years. He and his wife bought the property in 1922 and stayed there until the former leader's death in 1965.

At that point his wife, Clementine, handed the estate to the National Trust. Since then it has become a popular and successful visitor attraction.

Neame to be next Visit Kent chairman

BREWERY boss Jonathan Neame is to become the next chairman of the county's tourism champion, Visit Kent.

Mr Neame, chief executive of Faversham-based Shepherd Neame, will follow in the footsteps of Amanda Cottrell OBE who has announced her decision to stand down after seven years in the role at the end of 2015. She will become patron of the organisation.

The businessman is a founder investor of Visit Kent and a major influence in the tourism sector in the county courtesy of his firm's chain of hotels and pubs.

Mr Neame said: "I am looking forward to taking on the role enormously. I believe tourism is one of the key engines for growth for Kent and Visit Kent's track record is there for all to see."

Amanda Cottrell added: "Over my seven years as chairman, we have seen tourism in Kent exceed all of our targets and expectations.

"The strong and effective partnership we have built has seen Visit Kent being nationally recognised as one of the country's leading destination management organisations."

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

London Bridge work causes more disruption

COMMUTERS need to be aware of changes this week to train services as part of the on-going work at London Bridge.

From Monday 22 to Wednesday 24, trains to Charing Cross that usually call at the station during the morning peak will not stop there between 7.54am and 9.01am.

Southeastern services will continue to call at London Bridge at all other times.

In addition, some morning and evening peak Ashford/Rochester to Bedford trains will start and terminate at Blackfriars

Those using the service are advised to change at Blackfriars for



the onward journey.

Travellers are advised to check if the changes will impact on them before setting out. See Southeastern's website for full details.

Will you catch a tattooed fish after river release?

ANGLERS may find themselves hooking out a tattooed fish this week after more than 300 were released into the River Medway at Barming this week.

Released by the Environment Agency, it is hoped their distinctive markings, caused by a harmless dye, will enable them to be monitored over the

coming years.

The project will enable anglers who catch the fish in the future to submit their details, including date, weight, location, and size before releasing them back into the river, to help determine how well the fish are growing, their migration and dispersal.

...also

Tunnel gets speedy 4G

PASSENGERS using Eurotunnel this week will be able to take advantage of new super fast 4G mobile services.

It will work throughout the tunnel, some 100 metres below the sea and works ten times faster than 3G.

Santa is coming to town

FATHER Christmas will be swinging through the county overnight on Christmas Eve and into the early hours of Christmas Day as he completes his annual gift-giving jaunt.

Only the most eagle-eyed are likely to be able to spot him.

Get ready for sales rush

THOUSANDS of bargain-hunters will descend on high streets across the county on Friday as the traditional Boxing Day sales get under way.

Traditionally queues form hours before stores open.

Party safely this week

POLICE are warning all revellers to take extra care when out celebrating the festive season this week over what is traditionally one of the busiest times of the year.

Additional patrols will be out in town centres and on the roads.

EARLY BIRD SAVINGS

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EARLY BIRD £199



Tuscany Dining Table
American Oak Veneer
was £715 **SALE £479**
EARLY BIRD £125



Pallina - Stone Lamp Table
with inlay details
was £844 **SALE £675**
EARLY BIRD £99



Mozart - Occasional Chair
in fabric
was £639 **SALE £399**
EARLY BIRD £99



Adria - Contemporary
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was £633 **SALE £315**
EARLY BIRD £75



Bradshaw - 2 Drawer
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was £449 **SALE £224**
EARLY BIRD £59



Dreamworks - Oxford 3ft
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And unto a Kaddy a child was born... star becomes a mum

TV presenter Kaddy Lee-Preston shows off baby Albany for the first time to KoS

Pics: Arnaud Stephenson

Words: Chris Britcher

TELEVISION presenter Kaddy Lee Preston is celebrating her first Christmas as a mother after the birth of her daughter.

And as our exclusive photographs reveal, both are dazzling at this festive time of year.

The 37-year-old weather presenter gave birth to Albany Rainbird Wilkinson at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford earlier this month. She lives in a nearby village.

Little Albany, who was five days over due, weighed a healthy 6lb 10oz and, as delighted mother Ms Lee-Preston revealed to Kent on Sunday the labour went as "well as can be expected".

She explained: "We've bonded really quickly which is wonderful. You keep hearing of mothers who struggle with their children, but we hit it off immediately.

"We are all absolutely delighted."

And given her meteorological back-

ground, the middle name of Rainbird proved particularly fitting.

Explains the proud mum: "The middle name is her grandmother's maiden name so it's nice to have a weather theme."

Now Ms Lee-Preston, her partner Oliver Wilkinson, 38, and little Albany, are looking forward to their first Christmas as a family.

"We can't wait," she explained. "All I'm hoping for is the chance to get a little sleep if I can. I've not had an awful lot so far, but I'm sure it will get better."

Ms Lee-Preston shot to fame on BBC South East Today - presenting the weather on the TV news show. She also made appearances on BBC Radio Kent and BBC London.

As her fame grew, she also presented regional magazine programme Inside Out.

But in 2012 she decided to leave the BBC in order to pursue a freelance career. In addition to a host of public speaking appointments, she is also often still spotted on our TV screens as she continues to still do so some work for the BBC.



NEW ROLE: From our TV screens (below) to being a mum (above)



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DAZZLE: Kaddy and Albany prepare for their first Christmas together at their home in the Kent countryside.

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TROUBLED: Bishop James Langstaff, Bishop of Rochester

Why you should pray for those Christians at risk this Christmas

In a special article penned for Kent on Sunday, the **Bishop of Rochester** highlights the troubles in the Middle East which are seeing Christians persecuted and being forced to flee their precious Holy Land

By the Bishop of Rochester

Bishop James Langstaff

O LITTLE Town of Bethlehem will soon be on our lips, as will other carols and readings which focus our thinking and our praying on that particular part of the world.

In many churches we may sing from the Bethlehem Carol Sheet, sales of which support the charity 'Embrace the Middle East' (formerly 'BibleLands'), working to support education, healthcare and community development in the lands of the Bible.

Familiar images of these places and the scenes associated with them will no doubt come into our minds, albeit that some such will owe more to the imagination of Christmas card creators than to any reality.

Each year Christmas should make us stop and think about those actual places; this year perhaps we should do so more than ever.

The land that we call 'Holy' has for centuries been a place of ambiguity.

On the one hand a place of pilgrimage, spiritual enquiry and the focus for God's engagement with humankind.

On the other hand a place of division and conflict.

Indeed, even before the seeds of present day tensions, the Hebrew Scriptures record invasions by foreign powers, despotic rulers, and divisions between religious traditions. And today, as we enjoy our Christmas celebrations, so also we weep tears for the peoples of the Holy Land and surrounding places.

Canon Andrew White of Baghdad has been heard of late on UK media pleading that we do not forget the few remaining Christian people of Iraq.

One of the most ancient Christian communities on Earth is on the verge of extinction at the hands of IS, having already been weakened during the instability and violence of recent years.

Cities in which Christian communities once had their historic home

“ One of the most ancient Christian communities on Earth is on the verge of extinction at the hands of IS during the recent violence ”

Bishop of Rochester,
on the threat to Christians

are now almost no-go areas where a very few Christians only survive through the protection of their Muslim neighbours.

In Syria also, another place of historic Christian presence, Christian communities can no longer meet in safety. Many Christians are now among the refugees.

And in Israel/Palestine the temple mount has seen renewed tensions between Jews and Muslims, a synagogal congregation has been vi-

ciously attacked, Israeli settlement building continues, Jews live in fear of rocket attacks, and the inhabitants of Gaza face daily privation and danger.

And the tiny historic and indigenous Christian communities, including my Anglican sisters and brothers, continue to diminish as people leave for more secure lives elsewhere.

Some two thousand years ago in that same land, Mary gives birth to her son.

Even then, the land is occupied, many of its people live in fear, and factions vie with each other for religious and political influence.

Into the midst of that reality God comes - the Word becomes flesh and dwells in the midst of fallen and broken humanity. Jesus comes as light for the world, as prince of peace, as the embodiment of God's righteousness and justice.

And still God is present, living and real, reaching out to us in Christ that,

believing, we may know ourselves to be the children of God.

Still God makes himself one with humanity in Christ, both here and in the Holy Land.

So this Christmas pray, please, that we may know Christ afresh to be God with us in all the levels of our human living. Pray especially for all the peoples of that Holy Land in which God came among us.

Pray for Canon Andrew and the remaining Christians in Iraq. Pray for Syrian Christians and all who are displaced.

Pray earnestly for peace in the places that were the cradle for Christian faith.

And in praying for them, please don't forget those in need on our own doorsteps - those who this Christmas may be without family or friends, who may be beset by financial or other worries, who may be without food or shelter.



THREAT: Bethlehem

CAROL SERVICES AT OUR CATHEDRALS PROVE POPULAR

THE desire to celebrate Christmas in one of the county's cathedrals shows little sign of dwindling this year, with heavy demand for special festive services at both Rochester and Canterbury.

As a result of securing a major Heritage Lottery Fund, work ongoing at Rochester Cathedral has meant entry to the services and to Midnight Mass this year are by ticket only as spaces are

limited and the cathedral is keen people wanting to attend are not forced to queue in the cold only to be told all available space is gone. Tickets for the carol services - which take place tonight and tomorrow - have gone, and there are just a few remaining for Midnight Mass. Tickets are free. See the cathedral's website - www.rochester-cathedral.org for details.

Meanwhile, at Canterbury,

demand for its Christmas Eve service once again saw demand outstrip supply with all advance tickets snapped up. If you still wish to attend a carol concert, an identical event takes place the day before with tickets on a first come first served basis on the night.

For those keen to attend, the doors open at 6pm on Tuesday, December 23.

There will be no tickets on the door the following day.

Police tactics 'Orwellian' as row over fracking debate explodes

After it came to light Kent Police had put in a request for the names of all those attending a debate on fracking at one of our universities, opponents say it shows a worrying 'big brother' state emerging. **Maria Chiorando** reports on the fury.

KENT POLICE has been lambasted as a 'big brother' figure, after it emerged the force had requested details of people who attended a university debate on fracking.

The event, called Fracking in the UK, was organised by the school of sociology at Canterbury Christ Church University.

It took place on November 19 and was attended by around 200 members of the public. A panel of experts including academics and councillors discussed the contentious issue of fracking which many fear poses a major environmental risk.

The debate was not a protest or demonstration, so many were left stunned when it emerged that police had requested a list of attendees, prompting Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes to discuss the issue with Chief Constable Alan Pughsley this week, and two prominent Green Party campaigners to send an open letter of complaint to the force.

The university released a statement which confirmed it did not provide the list of names.

A spokesman said: "The university did not feel it was appropriate to provide the information.

"Our understanding is that this request was made during one of our conversations with Kent Police prior to the event.

"We declined the request and informed them of our decision."

A spokesman for the University and College Union was more vociferous. It said in a statement: "Academic freedom is a key tenet of our democracy and rightly cherished by our universities.

"Public debate about key issues must be encouraged and everyone should feel free to take part and air their views.



GREEN: Stuart Jeffery

"We are extremely uncomfortable with the police asking for details of people intending to attend a public meeting.

"Universities must remain a safe space for students, staff and guests to rigorously debate any issue and not fear that the police, or any other big brother figure, is looking over them knowing who they are and where they live."

After the university released that the police had requested the information, a spokesman released a short statement saying: "Kent Police assesses the threat and risk for significant public events in the county to allow it to maintain public safety and appropriately allocate resources.

"This assessment includes engaging and working with event organisers.

"However, Kent Police did not obtain a list of people who had expressed an interest in attending.

"Police attendance was not required during the meeting, but the Dover district chief inspector did attend the event as an interested stakeholder."



CAMPAIGNERS: The debate over the use of fracking has sparked some strong emotions

The spokesman declined to comment further.

One of the panel members at the debate was Green Party councillor and general election candidate for South Thanet, Ian Driver.

He, along with Canterbury and Whitstable's Green Party parliamentary candidate Stuart Jeffery, sent an open letter to the current chief constable and Ann Barnes. In it, they lodged a Freedom of Information (FOI) request, hoping to ascertain details of how and why the police request had arisen.

Mr Jeffery told the KoS: "The whole thing is quite Orwellian – the level of intrusion that the police think is reasonable to ask for in what was an academic meeting.

"This is a huge level of intrusion into what was essentially a learning opportunity – this kind of thing could put people off attending in the future, and that's what I am worried about.

"Despite what the university has

said, the police are now claiming they never asked for a list.

"I have heard from the police, who will be responding to my FOI request – so we will find out the truth about what was going on."

Mrs Barnes was more forthcoming with information, saying she hoped that people would believe that the actions taken by Kent Police were 'reasonable.'

After discussing the issue with the chief constable, she said: "I have been assured the approach made to the organisers was to assess the potential interest in a meeting about an issue that has attracted considerable attention and some significant disorder in other parts of the country.

"I am told that organisers were asked three things – how many people the venue could hold, whether private security was being provided and if the university was keeping a record of those attending.

"The chief constable assures me that an event over such an emotive issue would be subject routinely to a similar initial assessment on the grounds of ensuring public safety. That assessment was made and the only policing considered necessary was the attendance of Chief Inspector Steve Barlow as the drilling applications are in the Dover area where he is district commander.

"Although I am advised that a list was not requested, I asked the chief constable, from a hypothetical point of view, what information acquired by the police can be kept.

"I know that people in Kent are concerned about this and I am reassured to be told that information acquired must only be retained in accordance with the Data Protection Act and if information is retained it is subject to regulation by the information commissioner."

This new criticism follows another recent debacle for the force.

In November, police watchdog, the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) ruled that former chief constable Ian Learmonth had unfairly imposed a section 14 order on animal rights protestors at Ramsgate port.

This means the demonstrators were corralled into a small holding area, despite the police not having sufficient evidence to impose these powers.

The IPCC further ruled that if Mr Learmonth, who retired in January, was still in charge he would be would have had a case to answer for misconduct.

What do you think? Share your views and join the debate. Email us at editorial@kosmedia.co.uk and we'll print the best.

THE FULL LETTER SENT BY IAN DRIVER AND STUART JEFFERY TO KENT POLICE

"KENT Police have requested the names of people who attended a debate hosted by Canterbury Christ Church University.

As one of the panel members of the debate, I believe that your request is an abuse of your powers and I seek your formal apology and assurance that steps will be taken to ensure that this does not recur.

I am, however, very pleased that Canterbury Christ Church University refused to provide the information.

While I, as a public figure, am

personally happy for others to know of my attendance at the debate, there will be many in the audience who do not wish you to have their details – details that you have no right to know.

I would therefore like to know:

1. Under what legislation have you requested this information?
2. Which groups and meetings have your requested details of in the past two years?
3. At what rank was the decision to request this information made and what was the top rank of

officer aware of this?

4. Were you personally aware of this before the request happened?
5. What assurances are there this information is not kept after vetting?
6. Who decides which attendee is of interest?
7. Where does Kent Police prioritise this sort of 'intelligence gathering activity' in relation to theft, domestic violence, rape, criminal damage or traffic offences?

8. What evidence is there that there is a public threat that allows the police a rationale for expending resources on such a 'fishing trip'?

Furthermore, I request under the Freedom of Information Act, copies of emails and minutes of meetings where this, and other similar requests, were discussed.

I trust that you will treat my request with the utmost urgency and that you will take steps to ensure that this does not happen again."



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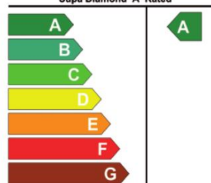
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A year through the lens: Our top images of 2014

A PICTURE, they claim, can say a thousand words. And 2014 was another year where Kent on Sunday showcased a host of the most impressive images from news stories emerging from the county.

From gold being buried on a beach, to the Dartford Crossing going toll booth-free; the death of Peaches Geldof to a royal visit to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War, it all happened here.

Over the next few pages, we showcase some of those special images...



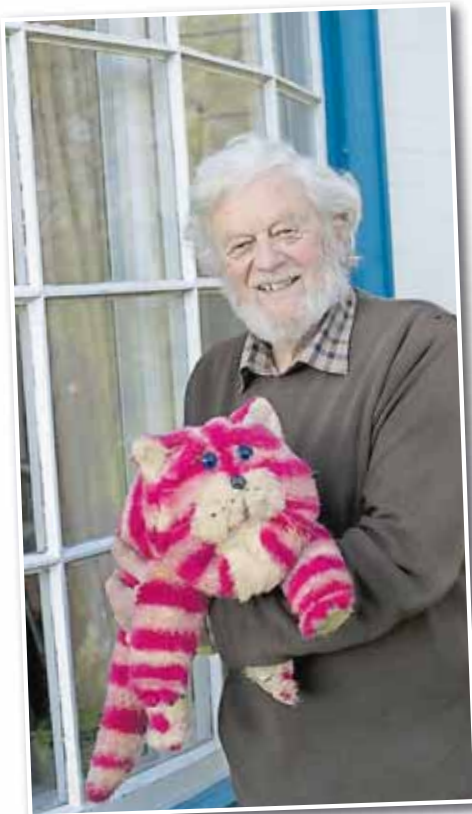
RECKLESS POLITICS

There is no denying Ukip was and remains the biggest political story this year. The party's rise included two high profile defections of serving MPs. One of which was Mark Reckless in Rochester and Strood. By quitting the Tories he sparked a by-election. Here he stands on polling day, captured by Isabel Infantes. Hours later he was declared victorious.



GOLD RUSH

It was a publicity masterstroke. As the Folkestone Triennial art festival got under way, an artist announced he'd buried £10,000 of gold bullion in the sand of a beach exposed when the tide drops each day. Within hours, thousands were flocking to try and find the buried treasure. And if they could find it, they could keep it (turn to page 27 for an update on what happened to the gold)..



A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

This year marked the 40th anniversary of Bagpuss' first ever appearance on TV. So we visited creator Peter Firmin at his home near Canterbury - pictured here by Ady Kerry, featuring the original saggy old cloth cat - to look back at his remarkable career. He stands outside the window which was the front of the Bagpuss shop.



ONIONS

When Ann Barnes posed for this photo to promote her Channel 4 documentary, she can have had little idea of just how it would all backfire. Meet the Commissioner made a laughing stock of her and Kent Police and may yet have be the defining moment of her reign.



WATER, WATER ALL AROUND...

As we find ourselves once again facing the prospect of another wet winter, few will forget last year's torrential rain and storms which caused such chaos over Christmas and into the new year. This image by Ady Kerry gives a glimpse of the scale of the water left behind.



POIGNANT FINAL IMAGE

The tragic death in April of Bob Geldof's daughter Peaches sent shockwaves around the world. The young mother and personality had, unbeknown to even her husband, starting using heroine again. She died the same way as her mother Paula Yates. In an ironic twist, the last photo she ever uploaded onto her Twitter account, the day before she died, was this image of her in her mother's arms.

EARLY BIRD SAVINGS

SALE STARTS SATURDAY 27TH DECEMBER

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Vale - Langfield 2 Seater Sofa was £1725 **SALE £1379** **EARLY BIRD £495**



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Vigo - Sideboard in grey oak was £1374 **SALE £1099** **EARLY BIRD £395**



Corndell - Nimbus L1210 3+6 drawer chest was £1365 **SALE £1095** **EARLY BIRD £349**



Nolte - Coro 2 drawer Bedside Chest was £325 **SALE £245** **EARLY BIRD £49**



Fiorucci - Light grey square leather stool was £439 **SALE £355** **EARLY BIRD £39**



Nathan - Shades oak 5915 Glass Coffee Table RRP £749 **SALE £565** **EARLY BIRD £199**



Nathan - Shades Corner Display in Teak RRP £1698 **SALE £1275** **EARLY BIRD £365**

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ROYAL SEAL OF APPROVAL

Folkestone's memorial arch to remember those who passed through the town en route to the front during the First World War, was officially opened by Prince Harry in August to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the conflict. It remains a moving memorial to a war which should never be forgotten. (Picture courtesy of Gary Browne/KM Group/Royal rota).



GOLDEN GIRL

Sporting success was golden for West Kingsdown's Lizzy Yarnold this year as she won Great Britain's only gold at the Sochi Winter Olympics. Her glory in the skeleton event saw her become a household name and, as this picture by Ady Kerry reveals, her homecoming was celebrated in style as thousands poured onto the street to watch her open-top bus parade.



FAREWELL TO THE TOLL BOOTHS

It took a little longer than expected, but finally the toll booths were removed - in part at least - from the Dartford Crossing. The booths may physically still exist approaching the tunnels, until the spring at least, but for traffic coming off the bridge, it is now a far smoother, and faster, experience.



A WHEELY BIG ANNIVERSARY

The University of Kent held a string of special events this year to celebrate its 50th anniversary - among them the chance to view the campus and Canterbury from on high after it constructed a big wheel this summer as this picture by Arnaud Stephenson captures.

YOU CAN WIN A PRIZE EVERY WEEK WITH KENT ON SUNDAY BY SUBMITTING YOUR IMAGES TO US.

Each week, next to the letters page, we run the Images of Kent section - showcasing a picture capturing a scene from the county.

Throughout the year, we've offered those photographs we consider worthy of a wider audience a free cross-Channel

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Prizes are limited to one per household every six months, to ensure everyone gets a chance to have their photography showcased.

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the picture, explaining where you took it, and with your name, address and contact phone number. Send the high-resolution images to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

Or for more details, turn to the Images of Kent section inside this paper - on page 43.

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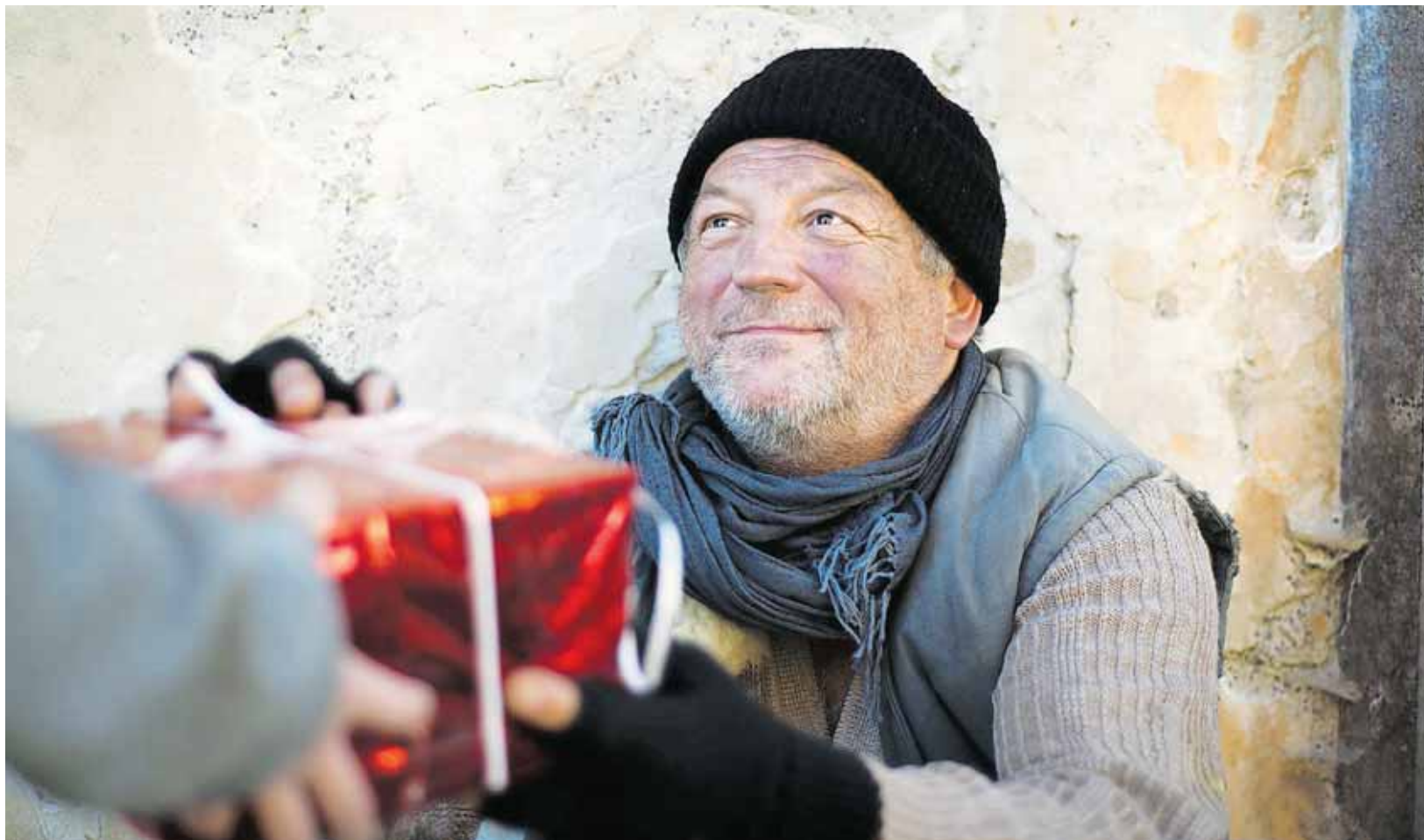
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REMEMBER: Don't forget those who are in need at this time of the year.

Why the festive period is not a season of goodwill for everyone

Sarah Linney takes a look at while Christmas brings cheer and goodwill to many, some find it a real struggle. In a special report we examine the issues some face and the help which is at hand for them.

THE festive season is touted as – and should be – a time to celebrate and enjoy spending time with family and friends. But what if you don't all get on? Or you're suffering from depression and can't engage with the festivities? Or you don't have anyone?

If you find Christmas more difficult than perhaps you're willing to admit, you're definitely not alone. A lot of people find the festive season a trial or even regard it with downright dread.

But help is available if you need it.

HOMELESSNESS

HOMELESSNESS is, of course, one of the most isolating experiences a person can go through. And never more so than at Christmas, when even the dilemma of where to spend the day doesn't arise.

Homelessness charity Porchlight, which is based in Canterbury, is focusing on young people for its Christ-

mas appeal this year. Right now there are 70 young people staying in the charity's six hostels in Canterbury, Ashford, Tonbridge, Sittingbourne, Ramsgate and Dover – and communications manager Rachel Kelly says Christmas can make them feel more alone than ever.

"With nowhere to call home and little or no contact with family or friends, feelings of isolation and despair can become overwhelming at this time of year," Ms Kelly said.

"All the issues people face come to the forefront at Christmas. All those things we take for granted – even the most basic things that probably don't occur to most people, like the fact that we'll be with our families or the fact that we'll have a meal with them – none of those things are possible for homeless people."

Porchlight does its best to help create a festive atmosphere with a Christmas lunch and even gifts.

"All the projects will have a Christmas meal, and there will also be a meal at Kent cricket ground for all

our service users just before Christmas," Ms Kelly added.

"Everyone cooks the meal together, and it means everyone has someone to sit down and have a Christmas meal with.

"A lot of companies and individuals donate gifts to us, and that is a fantastic help. We are fortunate that people do think about us at this time of year."

Ways to help include making a donation or, if you know someone who is sleeping rough, calling Porchlight's rough sleepers helpline on 0800 567 7699 so the charity knows about them and can offer help.

"Christmas is a time to think about homeless people, how did they get there, and what can be done to help them," Ms Kelly added.

For details on Porchlight's services visit www.porchlight.org.uk.

Catching Lives, another Kent homelessness charity, can be contacted on 01227 464904 or at www.catchinglives.org, while the Salvation Army, which serves meals on Christmas Day, can be contacted at

www.salvationarmy.org.uk

DEPRESSION

IF YOU'RE suffering from depression, feeling joyful at Christmas isn't just impossible – the mere thought of making the effort to do so can feel exhausting.

As Catherine Morgan, executive director of the Medway Engagement Group and Network, which runs a support group and activities for people with depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder, explains, different people react in different ways.

"Some of our members really enjoy Christmas, but others find it really difficult," Miss Morgan said.

"They shut themselves away and don't join in the festivities. Even us sending them a Christmas card isn't always appropriate as they don't want to engage.

"Some people don't have family, or they may have fallen out with them, so it's really hard because everyone else is talking about being with their

nearest and dearest. If people have family issues from the past, or they're going home to a lonely flat, it's really not a time of joy."

And the seemingly obvious solution of trying one's best to join in the fun can work for some – but not all.

"You can be in a room of people but still feel very lonely," Miss Morgan added.

"For some people making the effort to join in works, but for others it can come at quite a cost – you are putting on a mask, and afterwards you are left feeling quite worn out and drained by it.

"Families can help by being understanding and not pushing too much. If someone needs a break, or to step outside for a bit, just accept that. Don't put too much pressure on them."

Although the group itself does not meet over Christmas, its Facebook page (MEGAN CIC) is monitored throughout and help is also available 24 hours a day from Mental Health Matters.

Its free, 24-hour helpline, which is staffed by mental health professionals, is 0300 330 5486 for mobiles and 0800 107 0160 for landlines, or you can chat online at www.mental-healthmatters.co.uk.

Also available 24 hours a day are the Samaritans on 08457 909090 or jo@samaritans.org.

"The beauty of the Samaritans is that we are not judgmental," a spokesman from the Maidstone office explained.

"We don't give any advice. We are just someone who you can talk to in confidence, as sometimes that alone can help.

"We just listen to whatever people's thoughts and feelings are and try to give them an opportunity to perhaps alleviate their tensions."

The Samaritans have branches in Maidstone, Medway, Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone and Tunbridge Wells.

Anyone who's going to be alone at Christmas can also book a place at the Caring Hands dinner in Chatham by calling 01634 409768.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

CONTRARY to what one might expect, Christmas isn't necessarily a bad time for victims of domestic abuse.

Although increased alcohol consumption and family tensions can cause abuse to escalate in some cases, in others the desire to create a happy family Christmas dominates, explained Karen Simms, from Choices, which runs four refuges in north Kent and provides advice and support to those affected by domestic abuse.



TENSION: Families being forced to spend hours in each other's company can be a recipe for disaster...but help is at hand

"We tend to find that a lot of people will stay with an abusive partner over Christmas if they have children. They just think 'let's get Christmas out of the way and then I'll leave,'" she explained.

"The victim will tread on eggshells a lot more to keep things peaceful for the children."

However, she reminded anyone

who is in trouble to call 999 if they are in immediate danger, or the 24-hour Women's Aid helpline on 0808 2000 247.

Friends and relatives can also call the helpline – or the north Kent branch of Women's Aid on 0800 917 9948 – for advice.

"Domestic abuse is so hard, and it's always hidden," Ms Simms added.

"The person affected may not want to talk about the abuse over Christmas, but when children are involved someone should be saying something to the police or the helpline.

"Neighbours who overhear a row can maybe defuse the situation by saying they have run out of milk, or call the police anonymously.

"All you can do is support that per-

son and let them know help is out there."

She advised victims who think they might decide to leave to plan their escape, pack a small bag with essentials like important documents and money, research information about domestic abuse and memorise helpline numbers in case their abuser takes their phone.



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Police can also impose a domestic violence protection notice, which temporarily bans the abuser from your home – even if it is also their home.

“Think safety at all times,” Ms Simms added.

“The situation is not going to get better, but there’s help available. It’s a tough journey, but you get there in the end.”

Choices also runs one-stop shops in Tunbridge Wells on Mondays, Dartford, Medway, Maidstone and Sevenoaks on Tuesdays, Tonbridge on Wednesdays and Gravesend on Thursdays, where free advice on housing and legal issues is available.

For more information call 01322 384792 or visit www.choicesdaservice.org.uk. Information is also available from the Kent Domestic Abuse Consortium on 07926 842183 or at www.kdac.org.uk, the National Centre for Domestic Violence on 0844 8044 999 or at www.ncdv.org.uk, and www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk.

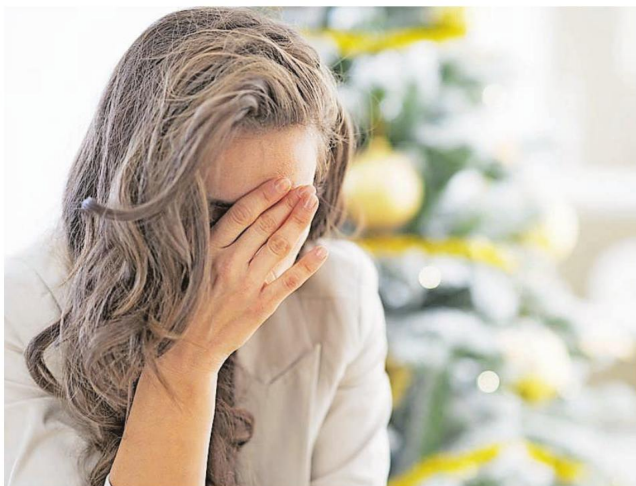
THE ELDERLY

AROUND 13,000 older people in Kent will be spending Christmas Day alone this year.

But as Ruth Morris, Kent and Surrey area manager for the charity Independent Age, points out, this is not just a problem at Christmas, but all year round.

“More than a million older people say they always or often feel lonely,” Ms Morris said.

“They may have lost their spouse or their circle of friends, or they may have no family, or family living a long



PRESSURE: Don't be afraid to seek help if it all gets too much

way away.

“Christmas can be a particularly difficult time, since the festive season for so many is about being surrounded by friends and family, making those spending it alone feel particularly isolated.

“This can be made worse by the fact that many of the usual day-to-day activities, such as visits from the postman or trips to the shop, also slow down or stop.”

However, help is at hand - the charity has a network of volunteers who can pop round for a chat or take an older person out for a stroll or tea and cake.

“You get to decide with your volunteer how regularly they visit,” Ms Morris added.

“We also offer TalkTime phone

clubs, where you are called once a month or so to enjoy a lively discussion on books, films or a topic decided by the group, with around six other older people – we provide the books and films for free.”

The charity also runs a free 24-hour helpline, the Silverline, providing information, friendship and advice to older people, on 0800 470 8090, and has produced a free book on how to stay physically and socially active which you can order on 0800 319 6611 or download from its website.

But Ms Morris says ordinary people can help too by extending the hand of friendship.

“Simply knocking on the door of an older neighbour to check they are okay can make a world of difference

to someone who otherwise does not have much contact with others,” she said.

“Perhaps let them know of any events going on in the community which may be of interest to them.”

For more information call 0800 319 6789 or visit www.independent-age.org.

Other organisations offering help are Age UK (0844 225 0320 or www.ageuk.org.uk), the Royal Voluntary Service (0845 608 0122 or www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk), Contact the Elderly (0800 716543 or www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk) and Community Network (020 7923 5250 or www.community-network.org).

FAMILY TENSION

NEVER mind rocking around the Christmas tree – arguing can be the main activity for many families over the festive season as normally-submerged tensions bubble to the surface.

Relationship counselling organisation Relate says it always experiences a huge increase in its workload during and after the festive season – and according to divorce lawyer James Muir-Little, January is the busiest month for couples splitting.

“Although Christmas is billed as the time of year when everyone comes together and has a lovely time, the reality can often be very different,” said Pamela Crust, spokeswoman for Relate Medway and North Kent.

“Christmas can be a time when tempers fray, and issues which can be buried during day-to-day life come to the surface. The anticipation and ex-

citement can place immense pressure on families and parents in particular.”

Pressurised parents shouldn’t feel afraid to organise as much as they can in advance, delegate jobs to others and set a realistic budget for presents and food, Ms Crust says.

“If you do argue, stick to the argument topic and try not to bring in other people’s opinions to back you up. Confront the issue, not each other,” she added.

“Remember alcohol has a way of loosening tongues, and the damage of words can scar deeply.

“If there are issues within your family or with your partner that need fixing, try talking to a Relate counsellor.”

Mr Muir-Little, head of Kent law firm Furley Page’s family law team, says many couples with marital problems will be thinking over Christmas about taking the first steps towards separation.

“We find that a lot of people who are having marriage difficulties try to get through Christmas, especially if they have children,” he said.

“But once the stressful festivities are over, they see the New Year as the ideal time to make a fresh start.

“The decision to divorce is one of the most important anyone will ever take. The emotional upheaval, and worries about the cost and how it will affect your children make it a stressful time,” he said.

“Even if you think you and your spouse can sort things out amicably, you need practical advice at the outset about the consequences of who divorces who, the arrangements for your children, and your financial prospects.”





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Did football unite enemies in Great War Christmas match?

Tales of a match in no-man's land in 1914 continue to fascinate us. But a leading historian claims it may be a long way from the romanticised view we have today

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

IT IS a story about remarkable humanity and spirit that has woven its way into the nation's heart.

That amid the brutality of trench warfare during the First World War, between December 24 and December 26, 1914, a remarkable temporary truce was called.

That the sound of carols from both British and German front lines floated in the air prompting each side to emerge into no-man's land.

There, they greeted one another, and as legend has it, even played a game of football together.

But this famous moment in history may not be quite as it seems.

It was this which prompted fascinating discussion during a University of Kent symposium last week in Canterbury.

Mark Connelly, from the university's school of history, is a First World War expert.

He says: "We have no unequivocal evidence that a football match did actually take place.

"It's very likely that a ball did get kicked around, given the prevalence of football in German and British working class culture, but it would have been more of a small kick around than an organised match."

According to Professor Connelly, the issue is that we look at one tiny detail, and turn it into a whole picture, rather than considering the wider context.

He says: "Most of the men on the front in 1914 are pre-war regular soldiers, and they are men who are used to killing.

"They haven't discovered some great well of new humanity within them. It's much more that killing is a job, and this is a day off.

"If we over invest in it, that does nothing to explain why the killing then continued for another four years.

"It couldn't just be because each side had such a draconian disciplinary system that the men were forced to go on killing – there has to be an element of acquiescence.

"So there would be this subtext of, 'I'm talking to you now, but tomorrow I might have to kill you', but then

why shouldn't they talk to their opponents, swap a few stories, have a bit of a laugh, and then in a very dispassionate way, a very professional way, go back to killing a few days later?"

"There is a difference between the way the professional soldiers and those who had been conscripted saw it.

"The professionals saw it as a job, whereas the new recruits saw it as their 'duty'."

Another detail that has to be considered is the difference between fraternisation, and truce.

The idea of truce, he says, "is not particularly odd" in wars – where there is a temporary cessation of hostilities.

"What this meant in 1914 was to keep your head down, and don't rile the enemy up.

"It was a minority of men who would have got out of a trench and had any kind of a chat with the Germans in no man's land.

"The others see no reason to disturb the enemy. So they participate in the truce as much by doing nothing as by clambering out of the trenches and fraternising.

"It shows us the complexity of the

situation. Truce is a long way from fraternisation. Undoubtedly, fraternisation did occur, and men have conversations with the enemy they'll remember for the rest of their lives, but that isn't the majority experience."

Historians also say we need to consider the different perspectives on the story.

While the British and German troops may have been happy to fraternise, the exchange was taking place on the Franco-Belgian borders. Prof Connelly says: "We have the context to sentimentalise it because it was not on our territory, so for a lot of Belgian and French soldiers the invader is on their land.

"For a Belgian soldier, the idea of standing around talking to the enemy is totally alien.

"One of the questions we wanted to pose at the symposium is this: If the Germans were sitting across east Kent, would the British people have found it so romantic that French and Belgians were having a bit of a laugh with the Germans?"

So how does he feel about the Sainsbury's advert – it divided opinion with many thinking it was crass

commercialism, and others that it was a respectful tribute.

Prof Connelly says: "If the advert makes people interested in the Great War, then that would be fantastic.

"If it inspired them to go and research and find out more, then I think it has fulfilled a positive role."



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REMEMBER: Members of 1 Buffs on a trench parapet. Credit: University of Kent. Prof Connelly (inset)

In terms of whether people would feel disappointed about how true the story is, he is sanguine.

He says: "I think people would be disappointed to find out that it's not as cut and dried as they may have thought, as it is a lovely story.

"There are enough flashes to show

us that the whole story isn't a lie, but it was not the organised match some people may have thought.

"But it's a more interesting story than before because of the complexity of behaviour.

"Interesting questions are left unanswered by looking at all the rea-

sons why it carried on.

"There are soldiers who went on to vigorously deny that there was a Christmas truce – why is that?

"As ever, as a historian, the ultimate answer as to whether there was this truce is both yes and no.

"People are always disappointed

with the historian's answer, but there are always different shades to consider, so no definitive answer."

Professor Connelly leads a project called Gateways to World War One at the university. It seeks to establish further understanding of the conflict through various projects.

FOOTBALL REMEMBERS

STUDENTS from Pent Valley in Folkestone and Thamesview School in Gravesend were joined by Provinciale Technisch Instituut in Kortrijk and Middelenschool Van Het GO! from Ypres in Belgium to hold football matches to mark the centenary of the games that took place during the First World War Christmas Truce – in a project backed by Prince William.

The match was part of the Football Remembers project from the British Council, the FA, the Football League and the Premier League – which will see every level of football mark the anniversary in a week of commemoration.

It took place on December 17 at Three Hills Sports Park, Folkestone.

Mario Citro, headteacher at Pent Valley Technology College, said: "We feel very proud as a sports academy to be taking part in such a special event especially because we are in a town like Folkestone which has such a rich association with WW1"

The Duke of Cambridge, president of the Football Association, said: "We all grew up with the story of soldiers from both sides putting down their arms on Christmas Day, and it remains wholly relevant today as a message of hope over adversity, even in the bleakest of times."

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Hidden against German invasion found

Part of First World War protection plans unearthed

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A TEAM of historians say they have been left stunned after the remains of military defences from the First World War were uncovered in Dover.

The plans had been long talked about but never discovered.

But now they have been unearthed in the year which marks the centenary of the start of the terrible conflict which raged from 1914-1918.

Archaeologists found oval 'dips' in the earth some 20 to 30 metres across had been dug. It's believed this would have been used as a last ditch attempt to defeat an invading German army.

If things had gone badly in the trenches of Europe, the Kaiser would have almost certainly ordered his troops to invade Britain, via Kent, the nearest link to the mainland.

So the British government of the time drew up plans for inland defences, but until now, it was never quite clear if the building work actually took place.

Now, in an historical find, the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (WCCP) and its volunteers have had a break through.

While scrub clearing along the summit of Whinless Down Local Nature Reserve, they revealed two sets of Bronze Age burial mounds.

But then the prehistoric ridgeline produced this extra surprise – extensive earthworks believed to have been part of the First World War defences of Dover.

Working in partnership, the White Cliffs group teamed up with a group called Up On The Downs (UOTD), plus the Dover Archaeological Group, and Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT), to continue the work.

Dr Andrew Richardson from CAT had an historic plan showing Great War fortifications on the site but it was not known if they remained a plan on paper or if the earthworks had ever been built.

Volunteers from Dover Archaeological Group have been mapping the earthworks. And WCCP and UOTD have had aerial surveyors in to take aerial photographs to add to the evidence – these are still being processed.

Keith Parfitt of CAT has organised a geophysics survey to take place in the spring that will provide more valuable evidence about the archaeology of Whinless Down.

Melanie Wrigley from WCCP said "It is an incredible find. There was always a belief these earthworks were there, but until you get out there and clear away the scrub, you don't really know.

It was a brilliant day when this was discovered. Now there are plans to see if there is anything below the surface.

"We believe when the war was over, these were filled in, but at this stage we have no idea if anything was left behind, or they stripped everything out and just filled in the hole. Either way, this is a major historical find for Dover."



AERIAL: Red dots reveal where remains have been discovered

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What happened to hidden gold?

When an artist buried £10,000 of gold on a beach, thousands flocked to find it. And much is still hidden

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

AN UNUSUAL piece of artwork from this year's Folkestone Triennial is set to 'live forever' according to organisers.

The project, called Folkestone Digs, saw £10,000 worth of gold buried at beaches in the town by artist Michael Sailstorfer.

Around 30 pieces of gold were hidden, ranging in value from £250 to £500. And the public were told if they could find them, they could keep them. In addition, other metal items were buried in the sand to make it fairer for those who didn't have metal detectors.

The gold was buried in August, creating a 'gold rush', when it was announced on August 28.

People went to Outer Harbour Beach at 4pm when the tide went out, equipped with metal detectors and spades to try and nab themselves a slice of the treasure.

The project was so popular that sales of digging tools including trowels, shovels and spades increased by 480 per cent at the local B&Q store.

Ioannis Ioannou is a marketing engagement manager at the Creative Foundation, which was involved in the triennial - the large public art project, where artists are encouraged



GOLD DIGGERS: Crowds flocked to the beach to chance their luck

to use the town as their canvas. It takes place every three years.

Tracey Emin has been involved at a previous triennials, and one of this year's stars was Yoko Ono.

Mr Ioannou said: "We know that eight people have come forward having found gold.

"We don't know how many more

people have found some, but decided to keep quiet about it.

"Of course, as part of the project, people were entitled to keep the gold they found.

"An important piece of this project was that we will never know if there is more gold out there, or if it has all been dug up - I personally believe that

there is more, but I can't prove it."

No-one knows where the gold is.

Mr Ioannou said: "Even the artist couldn't find it all now, because sand shifts, so there is no way of knowing where it has disappeared to.

"We're hoping that this mystery means that the gold will become part of a myth about the town - we had enough

people come forward with gold to prove that it was actually buried.

"The great thing about this project was that it brought people together, and it enabled us to ask people to participate, and in that way become the artwork.

"The art is the act of digging, it's not about finding gold - the first few weeks after people knew there was gold there, and coming to find it, was the beauty of it.

"There were people with buckets and spades coming down to the town - it really put Folkestone on the map for weeks.

"The fact that it provoked international attention - with questions of whether it was art, and how it was art being asked - you can discuss it endlessly.

"It also provoked questions about the value of gold.

"The fact that it provoked discussion, and was engaging, means that it was a meaningful and important piece of work."

It was not the only notable piece - much attention was given to 'Art Buff' - a piece of graffiti by secretive artist Banksy that appeared overnight in the town. For the latest on that, turn to page 5.

Did you find gold? Let us know how you found it and how much it was worth. Did you sell it or keep it? Editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

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CHIMPANZEE: The animals will be transported to Wingham

Chimps set to be shipped into popular park

Primates set to move to Wingham Wildlife Park as four-year mission edges closer to completion

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

OWNERS of a popular wildlife park near Canterbury hope to see the result of four years of planning and preparation come to fruition next year as they welcome a group of chimpanzees.

Final work on a purpose-built enclosure is now under way, with hopes the animals will make the trip from the United States at some point next summer.

For Tony and Jackie Binskin, it will start a major step forward in their ambition to make Wingham Wildlife Park one of the county's premier attractions.

Since it took the site over, the enclosures, facilities and animals have undergone a huge transformation.

However, it faces a challenge to ship the creatures from their current home to Kent.

Mr Binskin said: "We have wanted to bring chimpanzees to the county since we took over the park and have been working on such a project for around four years now.

"This is certainly going to be our biggest venture to date, and everyone is very excited about it."

The new chimpanzee housing is split in to a large indoor communal area that is going to be heated with under floor heating.

Mrs Binskin said: "We want these animals to be comfortable all year round, and to continue to remain comfortable as they grow older.

"With this heating system, no matter what their physical abilities are, they are going to be able to relax in the warmth."

This communal area is going to house a large climbing frame and lead to five separate 'bedrooms' so that even in the winter they can have the choice of who to be around, giving them access to a little privacy.

According to Mr Binskin: "From the social interactions, politics, tool use and team work present in so many aspects of primate society, there really is a lot we can learn from some of our closest relatives, and this exhibit is going to give us a great chance to help our visitors learn these lessons."

Mr Binskin added: "We have started to look at the options available with moving these animals, and we are certainly going to need the support of an airline to make this transfer run as smoothly as possible.

"This is very precious cargo, and we are adamant that all the chimpanzees arrive at the park safely, as quickly as possible and as a whole group in a single trip."

Chimps, whose native home is west and central Africa, are the closest living relatives to humans and, according to research, they share some 99 per cent of their DNA with that of a human.



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Spare a thought for those working this Christmas Day...

While most of us tuck into the turkey this week, many will be working in key jobs as normal. **Molly Kersey** reports

FOR most of us, the prospect of the festive season means some precious time off. But while the majority of us will be looking ahead to Christmas Day as one full of presents,

sherry, turkey and mince pies, for many it is just a normal working day.

From ambulance drivers, care workers and firefighters, many people will forego a day at home to get their jobs done and keep things tick-

ing over.

To highlight them, KoS spoke to some of the people in the county who will be leaving the food and home comforts behind to attend to their work.

THE POLICE OFFICER

INSPECTOR Gary Woodward works at the Dartford community safety unit. He explained: "We are committed to keeping Kent's residents and visitors safe every day of the year. Unfortunately, criminals do not rest over the festive period.

"Officers are usually busy dealing with incidents from the night before and while Christmas Day tends to be quieter than normal, it's not uncommon for further offences to be committed as the day wears on.

"However, members of the public should rest assured that it's very much business as usual and that any crimes should still be reported to us in the usual ways.

"Our families understand we have an important job to do so many of us come up with alternative arrangements. For example, this year my wife and I will be eating Christmas dinner and opening presents together on Boxing Day instead."



LIFEBOAT CREW MEMBER

DAN Monk, is crew member at the Gravesend RNLI. He told us: "The day starts like any other day.

"We still have all our checks to do on the boat and equipment and sign on with the coastguard, but once that is done we will go and have some breakfast and discuss what training needs to be done and start prepping the Christmas dinner.

"The benefits are knowing that if someone needed our help we are on station and can get to them quickly.

"The down side is having to spend the day away from the family but as a volunteer I choose to be on shift that day so my family are behind me.

"At Gravesend we spend 12 hours on shift which is different from other RNLI stations around the coast whose crew are on call Christmas Day ready to drop everything when their pager goes off.

"To tell the truth, I think at Gravesend we could get anything from a towing job due to mechanical failure to a

person in distress.

"You really can't say that 'today we are going to be getting a certain type of job' as Gravesend has a lot of areas on its patch from the Thames Barrier out to Canvey Island - some 26 miles covering Kent, Essex and south London.

"It's just like the other emergency services working that day, we would all love to be home with our families but even on Christmas Day accidents and incidents can happen and we need to be there to help those in need."



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NIGHT SUPPORT WORKER

HOLLY Merrells, of Dover, explains what the day holds for her: "I work in a home for young adults with special educational and behavioural needs."

"Going to work on Christmas Day has its positives and negatives."

"I've been brought up in a house where Christmas Day is for family. When I was a teenager I wasn't even allowed to text my friends on Christmas."

"It's a day to be together as a family unit so as an adult and being in a job where I have to leave my family mid celebration is really hard for me."

"Saying that, when I started my job I knew that it's a 24/7 service and working on Christmas is kind of part of the deal."

"We get a small bonus for the key holiday days but I don't think you can put a monetary value on quality family time."

"Actually being at work, though, is weirdly fun."

"Everyone is in the same boat. Given the choice everyone really would choose to be at home but it's tough; you're at work and nobody wants to have a bad time. It's Christmas no matter where you are so it's almost like as soon as you walk through the door it's forgotten and everyone goes all out to have the best Christmas possible in that situation."

"I've never worked a Christmas where I've seen anyone miserable at work."

"The workload is exactly the same as every other day, medications still need to be administered, paperwork completed, where I work with people with autism, routine takes priority, whether it's Christmas or just another normal Thursday."

"All that differs is the decorations and sense of festive excitement that isn't normally there."

"This year will be my son's fourth Christmas, and it will be the third I've worked."

"It's hard to look at it like that but in all honesty, working the rest of the year allows me to buy him the gifts he enjoys on Christmas and being absent for part of the day only makes me appreciate the time that my husband, my son and I can all spend together."

"Some clients where I work don't have family, so for them, we are their family."

"We're who they're closest with, who they love and look forward to seeing most."

"In that sense, it makes me feel really appreciated and wanted, and so grateful for what I have. I take for granted having family around me, and there are some people who don't. I genuinely believe Christmas is the hardest time of year for people without that."



THE FIREFIGHTER

WATCH manager Vicki Brown works at the Thames Side Fire Station in Northfleet. She said: "For us it's a normal day, so I am at the fire station and fire engines are available 24 hours a day."

"I'll be here from 9am to 6pm on Christmas Day."

"Common call outs for Christmas Day are the same as any day in December."

"On average we attend three accidental fires in people's homes a day during December, due to a mixture of cooking related fires and chimney related fires."

"It makes it harder for us because everyone is enjoying their Christmas. We don't want to be called out on Christmas Day and we are pretty sure that people don't want to see us either."

What can prevent accidents happening?

"One of the big things is never to leave cooking unattended and during Christmas it's very busy with family, so we would advise that someone else answers the door and looks after the guests."

"Always check your smoke alarms and never take the batteries out of the smoke alarms."

"Buy extra for Christmas presents and make sure family members know what to do if there are any problems, where the spare keys are and how to get out if there is a fire."

"We always advise people to check on elderly relatives too, especially if they are on their own."



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X Factor winner set to top charts as he's tipped to become a star

Chris Murphy reports on the singer now on the road to glory after winning the ITV talent show

BEN Haenow is expected to fly to the top of the charts today and claim the coveted Christmas number one - a week after he won the X Factor.

The former supermarket van driver from West Wickham, near Bromley, was crowned champion of the ITV1 talent show during a live broadcast on Sunday night - straight from a packed Wembley Arena.

He won a recording contract and saw his debut single, a version of One Republic's Something I Need, released moments after his success.

Now he intends to celebrate his new found success by tying the knot with his long-time girlfriend in the new year.

Speaking the day after his victory, his brother Alex told KoS: "It just hasn't sunk in yet."

"Our mum was in tears - she is so proud of him. We all are."

"It was absolutely crazy in the hours after the show. I have been walking around in a daze."

"Ben was whisked off quite quickly and he now has a manic schedule. We are over the moon for him, but now the hard work starts for him."

"Winning this was on the start - this is the first step and now he has a career to cement, and that is the hard part."

"He is not under any illusions of what is ahead

of him, and he wants to have as much input as he can. The hard work starts now."

"We are just looking forward to getting him back when he has a couple of weeks off just to relive it all together and have some quiet family time."

"He will need us as much as we need him. It's important to keep some normality in your life when something like this happens."

"Once that's over, it will really kick off. The journey is only just starting now, really."

"But he's worked so hard just to get here. He's been trying to make it for years."

Westerham Brewery has also paid tribute to the singer by creating Haeniacs Ale from nine local hops.

Mr Haenow had gone into the final as underdog to hot favourite Fleur East - but in fact stormed to victory with a 20 per cent lead in the final vote count.

Figures released during the week showed he had been ahead on the public phone vote for the last seven weeks.

After starting out gigging at local pubs like The Swan in West Wickham with his brother Alex, industry experts say he could become a millionaire.

And while viewing figures for the final dropped to a 10-year low, the final still attracted 8.4million viewers.



NUMBER ONE: Ben Haenow is 2014 X Factor champion

Battling the tears after being crowned champion, Mr Haenow, 29, who now lives in Croydon, said: "I don't believe it. I don't believe it. Thank you so much. My dream has come true. You can't imagine you are going to get to this point in the competition."

And Simon Cowell, the music mogul who mentored both the head-to-head acts and attended Dover College as a teenager, added: "I couldn't be happier for you, Ben. You've deserved it - you are a great guy and I'm so proud of you."

"This is what you've waited for. Everything you've dreamed of, and this is what turning into a star feels like."

His path to glory has had its ups and downs though.

His parents, Rosanna and Mick, separated when he was just four years old.

Speaking to The Mirror this week, he said: "It was a very messy split. For a while I didn't see my dad. Then we were supposed to see him every other Sunday. Then it just fizzled out. He just wouldn't turn up."

"As I got older, I couldn't handle it and used to drink a lot. I was 14 and just necking a bottle of vodka a day until I was sick and paralytic."

His father has since said he intends to repair the damage to his family.

Mr Haenow also has some long-term plans for his girlfriend of the last six years, Jessica Jones.

He said: "I am going to get married to Jess. I can't really give you a timescale, I would like to concentrate on the matter at hand first, then see what it brings afterwards."

Victory in the TV show can deliver fabulous riches - but is no guarantee of success, as part winners will testify.

Former prison officer Sam Bailey, 37, who won last year's show was nervously waiting



WINNER: Ben plans to wed his girlfriend

this week to see if her record deal would be extended, while sales of her current UK tour are said to be disappointing.

Other winners who have seen their careers fizzle out include Matt Cardle, Leon Jackson and Shayne Ward.

Ironically, those enjoying the biggest success from the show did not win it. The likes of One Direction, JLS and Olly Murs all lost out but came back to launch huge careers. One Direction are currently the world's most successful boy band with a string of global hits and major success in the US.

Ben Mills, from Whitstable, came third in the 2006 TV show - releasing an album. He can still be found performing at venues across Kent.

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7th June 2015	6	13th June 2015	HB	Sun-Sat	£480	£785
21st June 2015	6	27th June 2015	HB	Sun-Sat	£480	£785
17th July 2015	4	21st July 2015	HB	Fri-Tues	£425	£645
10th Aug 2015	6	16th Aug 2015	HB	Mon-Sun	£510	£845
31st Aug 2015	4	4th Sept 2015	HB	Mon-Fri	£425	£685
13th Sept 2015	6	19th Sept 2015	HB	Sun-Sat	£480	£785
23rd Sept 2015	4	27th Sept 2015	HB	Wed-Sat	£425	£650

These prices include: Transport to and from Newquay, Hotel incl Dinner, Bed and Breakfast. Full Day Trip (incl Entrance Fee) to **EDEN PROJECT** in St. Austell, Cornwall and Half Day trip to **PADSTOW**.



Padstow



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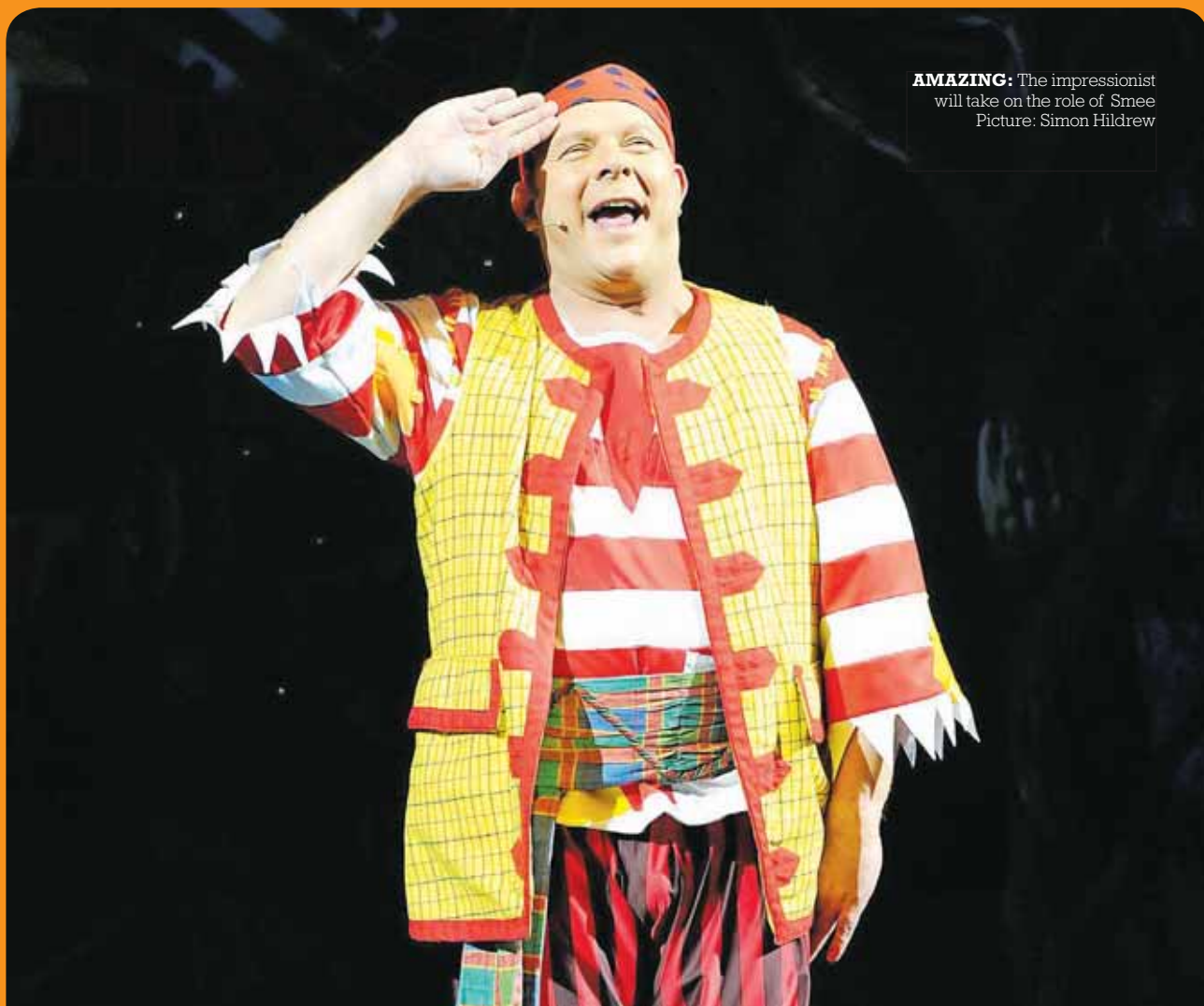
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AMAZING: The impressionist will take on the role of Smee
Picture: Simon Hildrew

Still time to join in the magic of panto this festive season

Impressionist Paul Burling shot to fame after reaching final of TV talent show

WITH his hilarious impressions of celebrities including TV comic Harry Hill, Paul Burling had audiences in fits of laughter when he rose to fame on ITV's Britain's Got Talent.

His own TV show, a variety of guest appearances and a role in his first feature film followed soon afterwards.

Now the show business veteran - at 44 he has already spent 25 years in the industry - has taken on the role of the affable Smee in the Orchard Theatre's production of Peter Pan, staged by Qdos Entertainment, in Dartford. The show has already been playing to packed crowds.

No stranger to the county after a string of previous appearances, this is the first time he has performed in Dartford but, he says, certainly not the last.

"It's great. Everyone is so lovely, the cast and crew are amazing and we are treated very well. I am coming back a couple of times next year," he said.

"I have played Smee before and he's a nice, loveable character, all the way through," he said.

"He's good fun to play.

"With the impressions, I try and bring something a little different to what people have seen before with Smee."

So what can audiences expect from the performance?

"A lot of fun, and a great spectacle because it looks absolutely amazing," he explained.

"We have got the most incredible cast. We all bonded straight away. If you get on great, which we all do, that comes across as well.

"People can see we are friends off stage as well.

"There's lots of singing and dancing and I think people are going to love it."

Andy Owens has been playing Peter Pan, Tabitha Camburn took on the role of Tinkerbell, and acid-tongued Strictly Come Dancing judge Craig Revel Horwood has been playing dastardly villain Captain Hook.

"He's an amazing performer, he really is," said Mr Burling.

"I worked with him last year too, and he gives it his all."

They will also be joined by ventriloquist, actor and comedian Dawson Chance.

Pantomime has become a well-loved part of the holiday season, maintaining its enduring popularity year after year.

And Mr Burling is happy to be a part of it.

"It's a brilliant British tradition,"

he said.

"It's as much a part of Christmas as turkey.

"It brings children to live theatre, sometimes for the first time. It gets the kids in to come and see a live show, and that generation will go when they grow up and bring their kids.

"It's a family occasion, you can bring little ones and parents and grandparents, people from every walk of life love a good panto, and I just love being a part of it.

"For me it's part of my Christmas, and has been for quite some time," he added.

Peter Pan will continue its run at the Orchard Theatre until January 3 2015.

For more information or to book tickets visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or alternatively you can call the ticket office on 01322 220000.

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Tom Odell to bring his live show to the woods

By Molly Kersey
molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

TALENTED musician Tom Odell has announced a tour of the nation's forests next year.

The artist is the first act to announce multiple dates as part of the Forestry Commission's Forest Live, which will see him perform in seven spectacular woodland venues across the country.

He will be at Bedgebury Pinetum, near Tunbridge Wells, on June 19.

Commenting on his forest gigs, he said: "This will be a whole new experience for me."

"I can't wait to bring my live show to the woods and I hope to see you there."

Forest Live is an independent programme organised by the Forestry Commission to bring forests to new audiences.

Income generated from ticket sales is spent on protecting, improving and expanding England's forests and woodlands and increasing their value to people and wildlife.

Over Forest Live's 14 year history, money raised has



contributed to a wide range of projects, from wildlife conservation to making improvements for visitors.

Released in June 2013, Mr Odell's debut album Long Way Down shot straight to number one.

He achieved the ultimate industry accolade of Songwriter of the Year at the 2014 Ivor Novello Awards as well as previously winning the BRITs Critics' Choice Award for 2013.

Chosen to perform the sound-

track to this year's John Lewis Christmas advert, the 24-year-old has added his spine-tingling vocals to a cover of John Lennon's Real Love, generating millions of YouTube views.

He is currently recording his new album.

Tickets are £34.50 including a £3.45 booking fee, and they are available to purchase now.

They can be purchased from the Forestry Commission box office by calling 03000 680400 or visiting www.forestry.gov.uk/music.



TOM ODELL: Currently he's recording a new album.



TALENTED: Recent hit was music from John Lewis advert

Circus of horrors in town

THE show that stormed into the finals of *Britain's Got Talent* will be at Margate Winter Gardens on March 12.

Tickets for *The Night of the Zombie* start at £18 and can be purchased from 01843 292795.



Blood Brothers returns

LEGENDARY musical *Blood Brothers* will be at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, from January 26 to 31.

It tells the captivating tale of twins separated at birth, who meet again with fateful consequences.

To book call the box office on 01892 530613

Innovative visual theatre

FERAL - a cross art form piece combining puppetry, film and live sound will be performed at the Theatre Royal, Margate on March 13 and 14.

To book please call the box office on 01843 292795.



The Beat hit Folkestone

ONE of the biggest bands of the 2-Tone movements, *The Beat*, will be performing at the Folkestone Quarterhouse on March 13.

Their hits include *Can't Get Used To Leaving You* and *Mirror in the Bathroom*.

Tickets are £17.50 and can be purchased by calling the box office on 01303 760750.

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Family fun at circuit where F1's Hamilton trained

The whole family will have a chance to drive karts on the track where the champion honed his skills

ASIDE from all the fun things about Christmas, it often also means over indulgence and fractious kids once the thrill of the presents is over.

Buckmore Park Karting, situated on Maidstone Road, Chatham, is offering families a great idea to solve both problems this year.

They have organised a family day on Saturday December 27, where everyone gets a chance to drive karts on the circuit made famous by F1 double world champion Lewis Hamilton.

The circuit caters for all, giving people the chance to enjoy a fun day out at the location where other celebrated F1 racers, Jenson Button and Johnny Herbert also honed their skills.

Established in 1963, they have the biggest fleet of hire-karts in the UK.

With seven-fleets of karts and quad bikes, Powerturn buggies and Laser Warfare games, Buckmore Park promises to have a little something for everyone who likes to experience a little speed.

The circuit is licensed by the Motor Sports Association for competition karting and caters for those of all abilities.

It is also approved by the National Karting Association for leisure karting and is an international outdoor kart track catering for sports, corporate and hire-kart drivers.

It has something for everyone and the family day will offer a variety of fun ways to burn off one too many mince pies enjoyed over the holidays.

And Buckmore Park is the obvious



FUN: The circuit will cater for people of all ages on the day.

choice for any child who longs to go karting.

For younger family members, there are 6mph electric karts for the little ones aged four to seven on the Kids Mini GP Circuit.

The 20mph petrol karts on the Club Circuit are perfect for children aged eight to 11.

The 40mph teen karts on the 600m National Circuit are for those aged 12 to 15.

The 390cc karts are available for all the dads, mums, granddads, big brothers and sisters who want to get involved.

The sessions range in price from between £15 to £30 depending on age and the circuit and karts they want to race.

And even better than that, you don't even need to book.

The circuit will be open from between 10am to 5pm on the day.

Just turn up and drive.

Buckmore Park will be doing almost the same thing again on Tuesday December 30 too.

The only difference is that this time it will be just for those aged from four to 15.

If you would like to find out more information about Buckmore Park and what they have to offer you and your family, then why not visit the Buckmore kids' website at www.buckmore4kids.co.uk.

Alternatively, find out more details about what they do by contacting the sales team on 01634 201562.

Comedians at the Stag

FUNNYMAN Mark Watson will join three other top performers for the monthly *Outside the Box* comedy club at The Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks on January 8.

The acclaimed novelist and comedian has appeared on *Mock the Week* and *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*.

He will be joining Lloyd Griffith, Rob Deering and Maff Brown.

To book call the box office on 01732 450175

Fawltly dinner heads in

THE latest Fawltly Towers tribute act takes to the stage at Tunbridge Wells' Trinity Theatre on March 7.

Fawltly Towers: Dinner is Served, claims to be a twist on the current trend, by putting the audience into teams in what it describes as a 'high-energy cabaret show' as it interacts with the likes of Basil, Sybil and Manuel - all while enjoying a three course meal served amid the mayhem.

Music duo to perform

AWARD winning actor Dean Elliot and a full cast of performers will tell the compelling story of the great music duo Simon and Garfunkel at the Leas Cliff Hall Theatre on January 24 at 7.30pm.

Using original photos and film footage *The Simon and Garfunkel Story* will feature a full live band performing hits including *Mrs Robinson* and *Cecilia*.

To book visit www.atgtickets.com

Down the rabbit hole

A UNIQUE adaptation of the classic children's tale *Alice in Wonderland* will be performed at the Hazlitt Arts Centre, Maidstone, from December 21 to 24.

The play follows Alice's adventures through a strange and wonderful world after following a white rabbit and tumbling down a rabbit hole.

Tickets are £7 to £8. To book visit www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk

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Festive show graduates into theatre's spotlight

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

TIRED of hawking his work around cautious West End producers, composer Ethan Maltby decided to look at the wealth of home-grown talent in Kent for his new show.

Mr Maltby, who lectures at Canterbury Christ Church University, is producing a Christmas piece, showcasing the talents of performing arts students who have graduated from the department. Unusually for theatre on this scale, everyone, from those on stage to the technical staff are getting paid.

Mr Maltby says: "We have some incredible talents here, but getting that first break can be very difficult - especially down in Kent, as most of the casting directors and agents are in London."

"That was one of the motivating factors behind doing the play in the university's studio theatre."

The piece, The Sparkle Thief, is a totally new production.

Mr Maltby says: "It's Christmas Eve and the North Pole is buzzing with activity, all preparations are



complete and Santa is about to set off on his usual journey.

"However, an unforeseen incident occurs when the Sparkle, the physical embodiment of Christmas Spirit, is stolen by a disgruntled elf. It is up to top elves Bic and Tula to journey into the unknown to recover it, but will they be able to save Christmas?"

With a punishing schedule of four performances per day, were the graduates stretched?

Mr Maltby says: "My last show [Drum Chasers] toured the UK,

and had Stephen Fry narrating it, but working with young people is even better - there is so much enthusiasm and energy there. It was fantastic to work with such a wealth of talent."

The Sparkle Thief is on at the Anselm Studios, the in-house theatre at Canterbury Christ Church University. Show times are 11.30am, 1.30pm, 4.30pm and 6.30pm everyday up to December 23. Tickets cost £8, or £5 per child (under 2s go free). Visit www.thesparklethief.com.



ATMOSPHERIC: The play is set in the North Pole



TALENT: The show's performers are all recent graduates

Guitar duo tune up for gig

GUITARISTS Frank Vignola and Vinny Ranioloare preparing to wow Whitstable with their skills at The Horsebridge Centre on January 17 at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £11.50.

Call 01227 281174 to book.



Dancing in the streets

HUG-MANY is a New Year's Eve party that will take place on December 31 on the Pantiles in Tunbridge Wells.

The party, which will raise money for two charities, will feature live music and heated marquees. Tickets are £6 adults, £2 children.

Visit www.hug-many.co.uk.

Northern drama night

COMEDY Drama Pride (15) will screen at Sittingbourne's Avenue Theatre on January 16 at 7.45pm. Tickets cost £4. Call the box office on 01795 471 140 or visit the website www.avenuetheatre.co.uk to book.



Retro cinema in Thanet

THE Tom Thumb Theatre in Margate hosts Club Hydropathes.

Described as 'a weekly night of off-beat cinema, wayward sounds and frequent surprises, it takes place on Monday nights at 7.30pm, tickets cost £2.50. Visit www.tomthumbtheatre.co.uk

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Lapping up the Christmas spirit

TRAVEL REVIEW: Lapland

By Chris Wiltshire

FOR THREE, bone-chillingly cold evenings, Lapland's lady of the night had stood me up and I was beginning to despair.

Aurora Borealis, the Roman goddess of dawn, had lured me deep into the heart of icy Finland with the promise of a show, the like of which I had never seen before.

But each time I ventured out from my cosy log cabin, wrapped up like a polar explorer against the -22C cold, all I could see was a deep black sky, lit up with countless sparkling diamonds and the occasional arching shooting star.

With my neck aching from gazing upwards and my face numb against the Arctic breeze, I was ready to call it a night. But then, with the time nudging midnight, she came.

Off to my left, under the ever-present North Star, a swirl of green emerged from the blackest part of the sky like some mystical voluminous curtain.

My jaw dropped and I looked around for someone to share the experience with, but there was no one around.

It seemed the northern lights were putting on a display just for me.

A few flickers of green danced across the sky, reflected in the snow-covered pine trees, and then disappeared just as soon as they had come. The show was over.

My brief encounter was one of several magical moments in a four-day trip to Levi, a picture-postcard winter wonderland just over 100 miles inside the Arctic Circle in northern Finland.

In truth, the display was nothing like the spectacular showing that had been the talk of the town the night before we arrived, but I felt blessed to



ROMANTIC: There are many activities on offer for couples

have seen it.

I had come with my wife to fulfil one of her dreams and meet the real Santa Claus, Father Christmas. And, cruel as it sounds, we had left the kids behind.

Now, my family loves Christmas, but when it came to a choice of a beach holiday or a trip to Lapland, our son and daughter opted for sunnier climes.

At 21 and 25, they felt they were

too old to be chasing fairy tales.

But my wife, Carole, really loves Christmas.

Barely has the festive season passed when she is plotting the next one.

While Santa-fever hangs in the air, many head to Levi for skiing and snowboarding, with a well-lit downhill ski run dominating the skyline.

Levi Fell is the largest ski resort in the country.

It has 43 slopes, and prides itself on

catering for skiers of all ages and abilities.

But we resisted the urge to hire some skis and instead joined Twinkle - aka Suvi, a sweet-natured twenty-something from southern Finland - on a ride deep into the forest for a meeting with Aliya and her herd of magnificent reindeer.

The Christmas fairy must have seen us coming because the temperature suddenly climbed to an almost

TRAVEL FACTS:
Sovereign Luxury Travel
(0843 770 4526, www.sovereign.com) offers a three-night Lapland experience from £1,374 per adult and £1,174 per child. Includes return flights from London Gatwick, three nights B&B, a private elf guide, excursions including husky sledging, snowmobile and a reindeer sleigh ride, a private meeting with Santa, a Lappish festive dinner and thermal clothing.

balmy -5C and it started snowing for the first time, great big fluffy blobs of the stuff.

We clambered on to the back of a sleigh, snuggled up under an inviting blanket, and then watched in wonder as our reindeer led us through an enchanting wood that looked like a set from *The Chronicles Of Narnia*.

All we could hear was the gentle swish of the sleigh on the crisp snow and the jangle of reindeer bells as we wound our way through the snow-laden trees.

I'm possibly the least romantic person in the world, but even I had to admit it was special.

In fact, the ride was over so quickly that I cheekily asked Aliya, resplendent in her traditional Sami costume, for another whizz through the woods. After that, it was back to the owner's house for a cup or two of warm berry juice and a fascinating talk about the reindeer and the ways of the Sami people, who have survived in the barren landscapes of the Arctic Circle for as long as 4,000 years.

It was a fitting end to a fairy-tale trip - and even the magical Aurora Borealis showed up before the night was over.

A festive shopping stay-cation in London

WITH Christmas just around the corner, it's better to think about a stay-cation in London's Oxford Street, than to trek elsewhere.

Not only does Oxford Street contain more shops along its span than Paris' Champs Elysee, or LA's Rodeo Drive, it is also home to some of the world's most iconic festive features. It is Europe's longest shopping street, with over three miles of retail destinations, and more than four million square feet of shopping space, all serviced by four separate tube stations.

When I visited, tourists were making a bee-line to Selfridges Christmas window display; a veritable feast of glitter and baubles.

While there, you can indulge yourself with a decadent afternoon tea in one of Park Lane's famous hotels. Lanes of London is the perfect hotel to wile away a couple of hours, with a platter of sandwiches, cakes, scones with jam and clotted cream

and a pot of specially blended tea from just £29.50. The former stately apartment building, which overlooks Hyde Park and Marble Arch is now a five-star leading luxury hotel.

There are a range of luxurious hotels across London, but for evening shopping on Oxford Street, the best must surely be the Thistle Marble Arch. The Art Deco hotel takes its name from the London landmark.

Despite austerity reigning over many town and city centres this year, Oxford Street still has its famous lights. - this year is the 55th that they've lit up the street.

Jace Tyrrell is the deputy CEO at New West End Company, which works to promote 600 shops in the area. He said: "Oxford Street lives up to its reputation as the world's most famous high street every Christmas. With three miles of iconic flagship stores and favourite international brands lit up by the spectacular Oxford Street Christmas Lights, there



FESTIVE: Oxford Street embodies the festive spirit better than anywhere else

is nowhere else like it. But the fun doesn't stop with just shopping - the street, and the streets directly off

Oxford Street, are packed with a variety of renowned restaurants, hotels and entertainment choices to

suit any taste and price. This is Christmas shopping to remember - and a true Great British tradition!"

WHAT'S your earliest Christmas memory? Peeling the wrapping paper off your very first bike? Sledding down some powdery snow on a tea tray? Or lovingly laying out mince pies and port for Santa?

Mine is of my poor mother's face as she carved her golden, cooked-to-perfection turkey to discover a plastic bag of its internal organs still stuffed inside.

Luckily, our Christmas wasn't ruined (we got to watch Mary Poppins with a lap dinner of cold veg and spuds), but we didn't have turkey again for years.

There's something about roasting 'the bird' on December 25 that makes us more stressed than a Bake Off contestant whose Baked Alaska has melted - particularly if, like many of us, you've been too busy buying pressies, catching up with friends and recovering from your office party to plan ahead with your cooking.

But preparing your last-minute Christmas dinner needn't feel like an audition for Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares. You can still produce a perfectly delicious turkey, minus the frazzle.

What's more, with the odd shortcut when it comes to the trimmings, you can still find time to unwrap presents and quaff Buck's Fizz with the rest of the family.

First things first, chose the right turkey. If you're feeding a large party and have the time (and oven space) for a big one, all well and good.

It will also supply you with plenty



TURKEY DINNER: Get ready for the big day by preparing your meal in advance (and don't leave the giblets in a bag inside)

Planning for a stress-free meal

of leftovers for turkey sandwiches.

If, on the other hand, you prefer to do things last minute and your oven is closer in size to an A4 envelope than an Aga, a turkey crown (where the wings and legs have been removed) is probably your best bet. It's also easier to carve - perfect when you have a host of hungry mouths you have to feed.

Some even come in a roasting bag, meaning you can just pop it in the oven, seal in the flavour and save yourself some washing up.

As for the trimmings, time-saving options needn't involve sawdust-style dry stuffing and that jar of instant gravy that's been gathering dust since last December.

These days, supermarkets offer

plenty of pre-prepared, deluxe options if you want to wow and are happy to spend a bit more: fresh stuffing and gravy, posh cranberry sauces, vegetable selections, and potatoes already seasoned, basted, and ready for roasting.

So bung it all in the oven, put your feet up (keeping an eye on the time), and make sure you have some helpers

around when it comes to plating up. Just don't forget to have a rummage in your turkey beforehand, and serve up with some cranberry sauce.

Our pick of the best are Aldi's Specially Selected Cranberry Sauce With Port, TRUEfoods Cranberry Sauce from Ocado.com and Sainsbury's Taste The Difference Wild Cranberry Sauce.

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Are grammars really worth it?

IT IS always assumed that grammar schools are good schools (KoS, last week).

My own experience was that the grammar school I attended provided a complacent and poor education.

Advice on what to do was absent and I was not challenged or encouraged.

I scraped a pass in maths A-Level because I couldn't be bothered to write down answers.

I failed physics and applied maths because I had no enthusiasm for either subject. Although I did learn to play strip poker in the back of a lesson!

I was in my thirties before I went to do a maths related degree.

Is this really what Kent wants to expand?

Jane Eades,
via email

Golly fuss is not what it seems

REGARDING the issue on the gollies being offensive or racist (KoS, last week), I think they are lovely.

I have two males and one female.

There should be more dolls that are black as we are all human beings. We are all the same just different colours.

As I'm in my seventies, I have been through all this racism. Why can't we all get on as life is too short?

D & B Martin,
via email

MP Adam, your PM is to blame

IF ADAM Holloway can't understand why Ukip candidates would stand against MPs like him (KoS, last week) who 'agree on a lot of stuff', he should look to the last four and a half years with 'Dilettante Dave' Cameron and his 'Eton Mess'.

The 'heir to Blair', has run true to form, running a 'sofa' government packed with his old cronies, struggling to make it to the Commons tea room to consult with his MPs and certainly never consulting us.

Dilettante Dave squashed a Commons debate on an EU Referendum, has increased the debt to £1.5 trillion, carried on flooding the country with more people, continued to waste hundreds of billions, hasn't had a 'bonfire of the quangos', hasn't got rid of 'cronyism', or delivered on any other of his promises, yet Mr Holloway would have us believe all the 'good' Tories are making a difference!

So those MPs who 'agree on a lot of stuff' have had zero effect.

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Will consultation be hidden amid Xmas?

TYPICALLY the Kent County Council boundary review consultation (KoS, last week) has been launched when most people are too busy with Christmas to respond and it is likely to be forgotten about by the New Year.

The paltry culling of just three county councillors is already virtually guaranteed, but is a blatant case of tinkering around the edges, when a fundamental change to local government is what is really needed.

There are nearly 700 paid councillors in Kent many of whom, under the present cabinet arrangements, do very little and perhaps turn up to a handful of council meetings in a year.

The obvious answer is to move to a unitary system and to

drastically reduce the number of councillors and their cost as well as the bureaucracy in each council.

Increased efficiency and the cutting out of layers of duplication between the county and district councils would go some way towards making the huge savings being demanded by central government and would help to maintain essential front line services.

Residents would also benefit by having just one council to contact for any council matter.

By the way, what has happened to the attendance details for councillors on the KCC website?

Is this a deliberate cover-up?

Terry Cloadame
Pembury

As a soldier, Mr Holloway fought to bring democracy to countries like Iraq. So he must know, 'democracy' means voting for what you really want, not a poor substitute to stop his rivals gaining power, as he would wish.

Phil Granger,
West Malling

Festive verse for special season

Please find my poem, Light After Christmas, composed recently in the Sun Public House, Faversham.

Light After Christmas

Of all the lights of Christmas,
 One beacon will remain,
 And you will feel the comfort
 When life is wind and rain;
 When all the decorations
 Are down and packed away,
 A single glow is keeping
 Our hearts in Christmas day.

When all the fires and candles
 Are out, and Summer seems
 As distant as in Winter,

Let's find the light of dreams;
 Of all the lights of Christmas,
 One beacon keeps us warm,
 The star of Christ our saviour
 Protects us from the storm.

Robert Duncan Martin,
Canterbury

Remember our brave troops

FOR many forces families, this Christmas will be extra special.

Last month saw the end of British combat operations in Afghanistan.

Some 140,000 UK troops have served there, and the final few are currently on their way home to be reunited with friends and family for the festive season.

It's a time for celebration, but also a time to remember those who lost their lives, and those who will continue to need support, in many forms, for many years, as a result of their service in that conflict.

At SSAFA we're already responding to those needs, through a vast range of services

designed to support the injured and their families, those who are suffering with loneliness or isolation, and those who have been bereaved.

But we know from past experience that this is only the tip of the iceberg. Issues relating to active service can often lie dormant for many years, sometimes because of people's resilience, pride, or simply not knowing where to turn for help.

Over 7,000 of those we are helping today last saw active service during conflicts in Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Bosnia and Iraq.

Many last served over a decade ago, yet they still need and deserve our help. So while we welcome home the final few troops, I would urge everyone to remember the work that still remains to be done supporting serving personnel, veterans and their families here in the UK.

You can show your support this Christmas by posting a personal salute to them at www.ssafa.org.uk/mysalute, or text 'HERO29 £3' to 70070 to help continue SSAFA's vital work with the entire military community.

Air Vice-Marshal David Murray CVO OBE,
 Chief executive of SSAFA
 (formerly The Soldiers, Sailors,
 Airmen and Families Association)

Get tough on tax avoidance

WHILST the media continues to provide evidence of tax avoidance measures taken by multi nationals, our Government and Ukip appear to have no plans to halt these schemes.

This deprives the exchequer billions of pounds of revenue which if collected could benefit the NHS and deprived citizens in our society.

Your readers may be aware of the 'Luxleaks' files which evidenced the Luxembourg's tax avoidance schemes, with PWC sending 548 letters to Luxembourg's top official (see Irish Times 09/12/14).

This resulted in [drugs firm] Shire paying a pittance of £2m in tax over four years.

Both Shire and PWC executives were given a two hour grilling by a Parliamentary committee whose chair, Margaret Hodge, called the scheme a possible fraud.

It's time hard working PAYE and self assessment tax payers challenged the fairness of the revenue in such matters.

We in the Co-operative Party have assurances from the Labour Party that they will take firm action and redress the current position to ensure a level playing field in regard to taxation which will also assist small and medium size business.

Leslie Hallybone,
 Chair Co-operative Party, Swale/
 Canterbury



Ramsgate Harbour

by **Simon Foster from Cliftonville**

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By Steve Loader
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PRAISE: Peugeot's new 308 was crowned the European Car of the Year – and despite some dissenting voices, it has proved a worthy winner



The 308 was a worthy winner of car of the year

LOOKING back over 2014, we saw some great cars arrive and, as ever, some then questioned the verdict on the European Car of the Year (COTY).

Leaving aside the fact that the winner was actually launched in 2013 though – a common occurrence as the relevant 12 months for COTY are those before the winner's announcement at the Geneva Show in March – I still believe the Peugeot 308 (from £14,895) was a worthy winner.

All the more so because it was a quantum leap ahead of its predecessor – a feat usually pulled off by the ambitious Koreans rather than a European marque.

OK, despite Peugeot's intention to challenge the VW Golf, it doesn't threaten the German star for out and out handling and build quality and there are some niggles, but the 308 is a winner for style and interior ambience, helped by the availability of Peugeot's now familiar Cielo full length panoramic roof.

And cabin finish and materials are well up to the high standards Peugeot has set more recently.

The later arrival of the smart and elegant SW estate version has also added to the 308 appeal, while being fantastically practical – as I proved



with a jaunt to France during the summer when I barely challenged the impressive load capacity of 610 litres (seats up) 1,660 (seats down).

The five-door car's capacity is no less impressive (470/1,309 litres) and makes it one of the one of the biggest in the family hatch class, despite the 308's relatively compact looks.

There is also a good choice of both diesel and petrol engines available.

And the front runners for 2015 COTY? Nominations I would support include the Citroën C4 Cactus – a truly original car in that brand's great tradition – Mercedes-Benz C-Class, Renault Twingo and Ford Mondeo.



£1500

MINIMUM PART EX ALLOWANCE



**11 Reg Ford Fiesta 1.6
TDCi Titanium 3dr** 28,584 miles
£9,024



**63 Reg Ford Focus
1.0 Zetec 5dr** 11,329 miles
£11,934



11 Reg Mercedes-Benz C Class 2.1 CDI 25,679 miles
£18,064



**60 Reg Hyundai Santa Fe
2.2 CRDI Premium** 20,863 miles
£15,990



**07 Reg Kia Sportage
2.0 CRDI XS 5dr** 69,005 miles
£7,401

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61	CHEVROLET AVEO 1.4 LT SDR 20,874 miles	£7,304
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59	FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC SDR 47,279 miles	£6,631
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62	FORD FIESTA 1.0 (S/S) TITANIUM 16,006 miles	£10,874
13	FORD FIESTA 1.0 ECOBOOST (S/S) 12,378 miles	£11,423
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59	FORD FOCUS 2.5 ST2 SDR 55,466 miles	£11,121
61	FORD FOCUS 2.0 TDCI ZETEC SDR 9,973 miles	£11,452
61	FORD FUSION 1.6 TITANIUM SDR 21,865 miles	£8,592
11	FORD KA 1.2 TITANIUM SDR 32,206 miles	£7,111
13	FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM X SDR 8,963 miles	£22,364
HONDA		
61	HONDA CIVIC 1.8 SI SDR 45,477 miles	£10,081
63	HONDA CR-V 2.2 I-DTEC (DAB AUDIO) 15,937 miles	£20,702
63	HONDA CR-V 2.2 I-DTEC SR SDR 15,678 miles	£21,882
63	HONDA CR-V 2.2 I-DTEC SR SDR 12,331 miles	£22,202
INFINITI		
13	INFINITI FX 3.0 TD GT SDR 14,400 miles	£27,742
Y3MDL	INFINITI FX 3.0 TD S PREMIUM SDR 22,653 miles	£29,202
JEEP		
14	JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 3.0 CRD 7,827 miles	£33,653
14	JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 3.0 CRD 5,734 miles	£40,783
KIA		
12	KIA CEE'D 1.6 CRDI 2 ECODYNAMIC 27,400 miles	£11,794
61	KIA SOUL 1.6 CRDI 2 SDR 20,655 miles	£8,642
LAND ROVER		
61	LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER SPORT SDR 24,702 miles	£37,174
MG		
61	MG MG6 1.8 GT S SDR 28,500 miles	£6,983
61	MG MG6 1.8 GT S SDR 27,070 miles	£7,013
MINI		
08	MINI CLUBMAN 1.6 TD COOPER D SDR 54,354 miles	£8,664
59	MINI CONVERTIBLE 1.6 COOPER 2DR 38,782 miles	£9,901
NISSAN		



61 Reg Nissan Juke 1.6 Acenta 5dr
36,507 miles
£10,183

61	NISSAN JUKE 1.6 Acenta SDR 18,865 miles	£10,533
61	NISSAN JUKE 1.6 Acenta PREMIUM 8,108 miles	£11,633
12	NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI TEKNA SDR 32,554 miles	£12,303
62	NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI TEKNA SDR 35,563 miles	£12,503
62	NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI TEKNA SDR 33,440 miles	£12,583
61	NISSAN NOTE 1.6 N-TEC SDR 30,418 miles	£7,942
61	NISSAN NOTE 1.4 N-TEC SDR 25,299 miles	£8,072
11	NISSAN NOTE 1.6 N-TEC SDR 15,464 miles	£8,252
61	NISSAN NOTE 1.5 DCI TEKNA SDR 16,398 miles	£8,912
61	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 Acenta SDR 14,873 miles	£11,183
61	NISSAN QASHQAI+2 1.6 Acenta SDR 18,364 miles	£12,623

NISSAN



58 Reg Nissan Qashqai 2.0 Acenta 5dr
43,775 miles
£9,554

61	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-TEC SDR 36,172 miles	£12,793
62	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Acenta SDR 15,356 miles	£12,823
61	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-TEC SDR 33,180 miles	£13,033
11	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-TEC SDR 20,460 miles	£13,037
61	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-TEC SDR 25,303 miles	£13,353
61	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI TEKNA SDR 35,919 miles	£13,742
61	NISSAN QASHQAI+2 1.5 DCI N-TEC+ 23,341 miles	£14,296
61	NISSAN QASHQAI+2 1.5 DCI N-TEC+ 5,290 miles	£15,073
61	NISSAN QASHQAI+2 2.0 DCI N-TEC SDR 33,102 miles	£16,801
61	NISSAN QASHQAI 2.0 DCI N-TEC SDR 8,320 miles	£16,841
11	NISSAN X-TRAIL 2.0 DCI TEKNA SDR 29,582 miles	£17,711
13	NISSAN X-TRAIL 2.0 DCI N-TEC+ SDR 17,786 miles	£20,141

PEUGEOT

61	PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDI ACCESS SDR 50,645 miles	£6,931
61	PEUGEOT BIPPER 1.3 HDI TEPEE S 12,107 miles	£7,733
12	PEUGEOT PARTNER 1.6 HDI TEPEE 14,315 miles	£10,662

RENAULT

61	RENAULT CLIO 1.6 GT LINE TOMTOM 13,057 miles	£7,692
61	RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 1.6 EXPRESSION 6,712 miles	£9,362
11	RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE 17,167 miles	£10,332

SKODA

61	SKODA FABIA 1.2 S SDR DSG 10,360 miles	£8,842
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SUBARU

64	SUBARU BRZ 2.0 SE 2DR 77 miles	£21,501
64	SUBARU XV 2.0D SE PREMIUM SDR 1,300 miles	£25,451
64	SUBARU OUTBACK 2.0D SX SDR 1,001 miles	£27,943

VAUXHALL



63 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.6i VVT SE 5dr
13,671 miles
£11,084

61	VAUXHALL AGILA 1.2 SE SDR 16,240 miles	£7,452
61	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i VVT SE SDR 22,242 miles	£8,989
61	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4i VVT SRI SDR 15,416 miles	£9,082
61	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4i VVT EXCLUSIV 15,088 miles	£9,121
61	VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 CDTI SRI SDR 19,219 miles	£9,832
61	VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 CDTI SRI SDR 9,993 miles	£10,092
M7CPM	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i VVT SE SDR 5,685 miles	£10,661
13	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i VVT ENERGY 4,225 miles	£10,950
13	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i VVT SE SDR 12,583 miles	£11,094
14	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i VVT SE SDR 12,234 miles	£11,904
63	VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.7 CDTI ECO 15,178 miles	£12,344
13	VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.6i SRI SDR 11,808 miles	£12,981
12	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.0i S SDR 32,162 miles	£7,042
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13	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.2i ENERGY SDR 8,596 miles	£8,144
11	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4i SE SDR 14,017 miles	£8,333
12	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4i ACTIVE SDR 8,293 miles	£8,614
14	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4i SXI SDR 8,525 miles	£9,302

VAUXHALL



13 Reg Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4i Sport
8,700 miles
£11,494

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14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i SE SDR 12,996 miles	£9,372
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14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i SE SDR 9,829 miles	£9,522
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14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i SE SDR 8,839 miles	£9,562
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63	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i SRI SDR 12,290 miles	£9,623
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14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i (A/C) SRI 12,079 miles	£10,642
14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i (A/C) SRI 10,208 miles	£10,722
14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i (A/C) SRI 9,703 miles	£10,752
14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i (A/C) SRI 9,452 miles	£10,762
14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i (A/C) SRI 9,019 miles	£10,782
14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i (A/C) SRI 8,648 miles	£10,802
14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i (A/C) SRI 7,680 miles	£10,842
14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i (A/C) SRI 6,019 miles	£10,912
11	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI SRI 22,965 miles	£10,474
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62	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.3 CDTI (A/C) 20,451 miles	£11,184
11	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 SRI SDR 47,853 miles	£8,233
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61	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.7 CDTI ELITE 29,322 miles	£10,304
62	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6i VVT DESIGN 18,434 miles	£10,404
13	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6i VVT DESIGN 9,121 miles	£11,354
14	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0 CDTI SRI SDR 3,492 miles	£16,622
14	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0 CDTI SRI SDR 5,504 miles	£17,103



13 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTI Tech Line
13,000 miles
£14,174

VOLKSWAGEN

61	VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2 MATCH SDR 30,723 miles	£8,444
61	VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.4 MATCH SDR 13,419 miles	£9,932

VOLVO

61	VOLVO S40 2.0 SE LUX 4DR 45,237 miles	£10,082
61	VOLVO S40 2.0 SE 4DR 10,356 miles	£10,901

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Toyota's Yaris facelift is a revelation

A little over three years after launch, the current Toyota supermini is all the better for a 2014 makeover and still packs a value-for-money punch

TOYOTA set the bar high with the original 1999-vintage Yaris supermini. It needed to, after some underwhelming efforts, like the optimistically-named Starlet.

The world's No1 carmaker then had a relapse with the so-so Mark 2 Yaris, only to recover with the Mark 3 in 2011, also given a sharp facelift earlier this year to bring more on-road presence as well as righting a few niggles.

The most obvious change is the 'X' design front end, also deployed on the smaller Aygo city car, and tipped to become Toyota's new corporate 'face'.

Driving the car also shows some clever chassis work; in a bid to deliver the driver feedback that makes the Ford Fiesta, VW Polo and Vauxhall Corsa so popular, the Mark 3 Yaris launched with a stiffer ride than before, but a possible dealbreaker for some fans.

The revised car retains the smart handling, but now has far more composure.

The other big improvement is a welcome upgrade to the three or five-door cabin, making it a far better car to live with on top of the



Yaris's known qualities as a trouble-free and economical supermini backed by Toyota's five-year/100,000-mile warranty.

Priced from £10,995, it is also available with an all-new three-cylinder 1.0-litre petrol engine, though offering the same 69bhp output as before.

This entry-level unit offers

67.3mpg (official combined cycle) in its most frugal format and many will be tempted by this and modest asking prices, but a leisurely 0-62mph of 15.3 seconds might argue against it for other buyers.

The better option is the 1.33-litre engine tested here, a good balance of liveliness (0-62mph in 11.7 seconds) and economy (from 51.4 combined,



depending on model).

This arrived with the Mark 3 Yaris in 2011 as a flagbearer for Toyota's Optimal Drive technology, offering higher combustion efficiency, while reducing friction and powertrain weight to deliver better power, economy and emissions.

It's a refined unit, coping equally well with town centre dodgem

Rated:	
Toyota Yaris 1.33 Icon 5-dr	
Price:	£13,995
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Ford Fiesta

driving and long distance cruising and the handling is fine, after you get used to the slightly lifeless steering, and all the more impressive when weighed alongside the Yaris's much improved ride.

It's a comfy car spatially too, with a relatively long wheelbase delivering good legroom front and back, though the middle back seat is a squeeze.

Extra flexibility comes from fore and aft adjustability for the rear seating – a feature that made the original Yaris such a hit. This boosts legroom or boot space according to immediate need, and there is plenty of room and storage flexibility in front; with the seats pushed back fully, boot space is still 25 per cent up on the previous Yaris and not far off the sector leaders.

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This holiday features high-speed rail travel by Eurostar from St Pancras International or Ebbsfleet to Paris or Lille. Then, after an overnight stay, we travel by TGV - the French high-speed train - to the French and Italian Rivières staying in the delightful Italian coastal town of Diano Marina. Enjoy free drinks every night at the hotel and included excursions to Monaco, Villefranche and Portofino.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras - 1 glass of Champagne or alternative non-alcoholic drink • Return Eurostar & TGV rail travel London St Pancras to Nice (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille • 4 nights sharing a twin/double room in a 3-star hotel in Diano Marina with buffet breakfasts & dinners and free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night - local brands of beer, wine & spirits • Visits to Monaco, Villefranche and Portofino • All transfers abroad



Rivers, Boats & Trains of the Dordogne by Rail

23 April, 16 July & 3 September, 2015

6 days half board, from £599pp • Quote: DG-KOS

In the heart of France, the Dordogne region has so much to offer with a stunning scenic railway, picturesque castles, beautiful rivers, and medieval hilltop towns. We stay in the centre of the famous town of Périgueux, and include excursions taking-in: Rocamadour, perched on a hilltop overlooking the Dordogne river; the picturesque Truffadour railway; the beautiful village of La Roque Gageac with a cruise on the Dordogne on a traditional flat bottomed boat; and Le Gouffre de Padirac to visit the stunning underground caves.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) to Limoges • 5 nights half-board stay at a 3 star hotel in Périgueux • Excursions • Transfers abroad



Krakow - the Royal City by Air

8 June, 2015

5 days half board, from £599pp • Quote: PL6-KOS

Poland's delightful city of Krakow, known as the Royal city, is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a must-see destination for all travellers. Staying in a modern 4-star centrally-located hotel, we are just steps away from the Medieval centre with its vast array of bars and cafés, lively and vibrant squares and markets, Renaissance arcades and Baroque structures. Accompanied by a fully-licensed guide we will explore Krakow and beyond with visits to the renowned, UNESCO listed, Wieliczka Royal Salt Mines and an optional visit to Auschwitz.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout abroad • 4 nights half-board stay at a 4 star hotel in Krakow • Excursions and admissions as stated • Return flights with luggage from Gatwick to Krakow - supp't may apply • Transfers abroad



Free Drinks
Champagne
Check-in

Nice Flower Parade, Lemons, Mimosa & Monaco

by Rail • 18 February, 2015

8 days semi all inclusive, £899pp • Quote: NP2-KOS

This super holiday, taking in the French Riviera's premiere floral festivals, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras' famous Champagne bar before an afternoon departure on Eurostar to Paris. After an overnight stay we continue by TGV train to Nice then to Diano Marina on Italy's Riviera of Flowers. Enjoy free drinks every night at the hotel and visits to Nice Flower Parade, Mimosa in St Maxime, Menton's Fête du Citron and Monaco.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras • Return rail travel from St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) to Nice • 1 night hotel B&B in Paris • 6 nights at a 3 star hotel in Diano Marina - half board PLUS free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night • All excursions • Transfers abroad



4-star Nice Carnival, Menton Lemon Festival & Monaco

by Air • 27 February, 2015

4 days, £499pp • Quote: NC2-KOS

This super holiday takes in the French Riviera's premiere Carnivals and Monaco. Nice Carnival is the most popular winter event on the French Riviera. Sleepy Menton bursts into a riot of colour with its huge citrus display garden. We stay at a 4-star hotel ideally located on the legendary Promenade des Anglais and just a few minutes from the airport and town centre - the Grand Flower Parade passes the front of the hotel.

INCLUDED: Return flights with hand luggage from Gatwick to Nice - supp't may apply • 3 nights B&B at a 4-star Hotel in Nice • Visit by coastal train to Monaco & Menton Lemon Festival, including entry to the citrus display garden • Return airport to hotel transfers • Services of our Tour Manager abroad

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- Excellent telephone manner
- 2 years working in a customer services role
- Excellent IT Skills (Word, Excel, Booking systems)

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HIGHWAYS AGENCY

THE M2 MOTORWAY JUNCTIONS 1 - 2 TEMPORARY OVERNIGHT CLOSURES

Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of State for Transport intends to make an Order on the M2 Motorway, in the County of Kent, under section 14(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 because works are proposed to be executed on the road.

The effect of the Order would be to authorise the overnight closure of the following:

- the coastbound carriageway of the M2 between the tip of the nosing of the 'off' link road at Junction 1 (A289) and the tip of the nosing of the 'on' slip road at Junction 2 (A228);
- the Londonbound carriageway of the M2 between the tip of the nosing of the 'off' slip road at Junction 2 (A228) and the tip of the nosing of the 'on' link road at Junction 2 (A289);
- the slip road leading from the coastbound carriageway of the M2 at Junction 2; and
- the slip road leading to the Londonbound carriageway of the M2 at Junction 2.

These measures would be in the interests of road safety to enable contractors to undertake resurfacing, road marking, reinstallation of studs and all associated carriageway works. It is expected that the work would last for approximately 3 weeks starting on or after Monday 2nd February 2015 between 20:00 and 06:00.

The Order would come into force on 31 January 2015 and have a maximum duration of eighteen months.

During the closures outlined above, traffic affected would be diverted via the A289, A2 and the A278.

The carriageway closures, slip road closures and diversion routes would be clearly indicated by traffic signs when they are in operation during the works periods.

D Walker, Network Delivery & Development, Highways Agency, Department for Transport, Ref: HA/SE/2014/A2/152

Enquiries relating to this notice may be made in writing to A Patel, Network Delivery & Development, at the Highways Agency, Federated House, London Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1SZ (e-mail: arvind.patel@highways.gsi.gov.uk) or by telephoning 01306 874 131. <http://www.highways.gov.uk>

PLANNING

Folkestone
Hythe & Romney Marshes
Shepway District Council

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y14/1366/SH - 81 - 83 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2AF - Change of use of first to fourth floors from office (Class B1) to house of multiple occupation (Class C4).

Y14/1378/SH - The Old School School Lane Newington Folkestone Kent - Erection of a single storey extension to the east elevation of the attached annexe living accommodation.

Y14/1386/SH - Old School House Lister Way Sandgate Folkestone Kent - Listed Building Consent to repaint external wall, replace deteriorated ragstone where necessary and repair 3 window surrounds all to South elevation.

Y14/1372/SH - Oaklands Stade Street Hythe Kent - Change of use of boiler room serving the town council offices to additional pharmacy facilities (Class A1).

Y14/1321/SH - Harvey Grammar School Cheriton Road Folkestone Kent CT19 5JY - Erection of a two storey extension to existing sports hall, following demolition of existing gymnasium.

Y14/1237/SH - Old Shambles High Street Elham Canterbury Kent - Erection of a rear conservatory.

Y14/1369/SH - Montague Court 11 - 15 Westbourne Gardens Folkestone Kent CT20 2TJ - Pollard back to previous pollarding points of a Sycamore tree and the pruning back to boundary of encroaching branches of a row of Lime trees, all situated within a conservation area.

Y14/1351/SH - The Barnfield Brabourne Lane Stowting Common Ashford Kent - Erection of a replacement dwelling (resubmission of planning application Y14/0211/SH).

Y14/1335/SH - Channel Tunnel Terminal Ashford Road Newington Folkestone Kent - Request for Approval for Welcome Sign, Channel Tunnel U.K. Terminal - Submission No. 14/02 - Channel Tunnel Act 1987: signage in connection with the movement through the tunnel system of vehicles.

Y14/1343/SH - Land adjoining Well House 41 Radnor Cliff Folkestone Kent - Construction of a two storey, detached dwelling with vehicle access.

Y14/1094/SH - Folkestone Primary Academy Park Farm Road Folkestone Kent CT19 5DN - Reserved matters application for details of appearance and landscaping for the construction of 86 dwellings (Class C3) being details pursuant to Phase 1 of outline planning permission reference Y11/1132/SH.

Y14/1391/SH* - 28 Radnor Cliff Folkestone Kent CT20 2JJ - Alternative design to northern part of approved side extension (as approved under planning consent No.Y12/0752/SH), to include the reconstruction of the existing entrance and the increase in the extension to form an additional bedroom.

Y14/1393/SH# - Romney Helms Madeira Road Littlestone New Romney Kent - Felling of a Sycamore tree situated within a conservation area.

Representations can be made in writing either on line on the Council's website, by email to planning@shepway.gov.uk or in writing to the Head of Planning and Environmental Health, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY. Please always quote the application reference number. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. Please note that any representations received will be publically viewable on the Council's website.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

Note: This is not a full list of applications received. All planning applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

C Lewis, Head of Planning and Environmental Health
Shepway District Council

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116
STOPPING UP OF LAND
AT BEER CART LANE, CANTERBURY

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT The Kent County Council as Highway Authority for the County of Kent propose to make an application to the Magistrates' sitting at Canterbury Magistrates' Court on 3 February 2015 at 10:00 for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land at Beer Cart Lane, Canterbury as edged red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of the draft order and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of The Kent County Council at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

Any person to whom this Notice has been given or who uses the highway specified or who would be aggrieved by the making of the Order may appear before the Magistrates' Court to raise an objection or make a representation on the application. Any person intending to appear before the Magistrates' Court at the hearing of the application is requested to inform Joy Ukadike by post to Legal Services, The Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ, by email joy.ukadike@kent.gov.uk, or by telephone 03000416791 before 24 January 2015 quoting reference number LS/21/106007/657.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Joy Ukadike using the contact details shown above.

JOHN BURR
DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Traffic Schemes & Member Highway Fund
Ashford Highway Depot
Henwood Industrial Estate
Javelin Way
Ashford
Kent
TN24 8AD

LICENSING ACT 2003:
Application for Premises Licence

B. G. B. GAMAGE of 96 Wife of Bath Hill, Canterbury CT2 8PH has applied to Canterbury City Council for the GRANT of A Premises Licence permitting the following activities every day:

Sale of Alcohol off the premises Monday to Sunday 06.00 - 22.00 for the premises Oxford News situated at 29 Oxford Street, Whitstable CT5 1DD.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW tel. 01227 862000 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 08/01/2015.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that their identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

THE BRITANNIA REFINED METALS RETIREMENT PLAN (the "Plan")

Notice to persons, personal representatives or family members of persons who participated in the Plan.

The Trustees of the Plan wish to trace any person, personal representative or family member of a person who was a member of the Plan between September 1991 and September 1994.

This is because, following extensive legal and actuarial advice to review the method used by the Plan for equalising benefits between males and females for periods of service in the early 1990s it has come to light that some members or their estates may be entitled to additional benefits.

If you believe you or a member of your family member participated in the Plan between September 1991 and September 1994, and you have not already been contacted by the Trustees, please contact us by writing to the Trustees of the Britannia Refined Metals Retirement Plan, c/o Gillian Graham PS Independent Trustee Services Limited, Albion, Fishponds Road, Wokingham, Berks RG41 2QE brm@psitl.com. The Trustees require that any persons with a potential claim to benefits from the Plan, provide details in writing about their potential claim no later than 28 February 2015. You should include your full name (and name of the Plan member if different), your National Insurance number or that of the relevant member, current address, your date of birth, date of death of the member of the Plan through whom you are claiming, details of which company you worked for whilst a member of the Plan or details of your relationship to the person who did work for the company and any other written evidence to support your claim.

If the Trustees cannot confirm your entitlement under the Plan before 28 February 2015, they will only make payments to those people whose claims and entitlements they are aware of at 28 February 2015, and will not be liable to pay any further benefits.

If you have recently received correspondence relating to the Plan from the Trustees or you already receive a pension from the Plan you do not need to write to the Trustees as they already have your details.

For and on behalf of the Trustees of the Britannia Refined Metals Retirement Plan.

Can Gills deliver perfect present?

Tough two festive games as Taylor puts Kedwell back on track



Football

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

PETER Taylor will lead his men into two back-to-back games over the festive period, knowing that two wins and six points would deliver a price-less Christmas present.

His Gillingham team went into this weekend's game at home to Chesterfield on the back of a six match unbeaten run which has seen them dig themselves out of the League One relegation zone and reach the area final of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.

After that they face a trip to Colchester - currently struggling at the foot of the table - on Boxing Day, and then entertain league leaders Bristol City at Priestfield just two days later.

It will provide the Gills with the chance to exact revenge for the Rob-

RETURNING: Danny Kedwell working on his fitness after temporarily 'dropping his standards' according to Peter Taylor

Picture: ADY KERRY

ins' 2-1 FA Cup win earlier in the season. And set a marker for games to come. Bristol City are also the only team standing between the Gills and a Wembley appearance.

City will be the opponents in the south final of the JPT with the winners over two legs getting in the Wembley way.

A key player for all games will undoubtedly be striker Danny Kedwell. He didn't travel to last week's away win at Doncaster, sparking speculation of a bust-up with Taylor.

But the Gills boss was swift to explain the reasons behind the omission.

He explained on the club's website: "He's absolutely fine, I just felt last week that he wasn't as focused as he should have been and everyone needs to do it right to get themselves mentally prepared for the next match.

"I have a lot of respect for Danny Kedwell, I think he's a winner and he's somebody you want to take out on the park with you.

"I just felt as though he lost a bit of that last week, he knows the way I want things to be done and he knows how he was. We have shaken hands, got on with it and I had a good chat with him Monday.

"If anything he dropped his standards a bit last week and that isn't him."

Kedwell played a development fixture on Tuesday against AFC Wimbledon in an effort to get back to full match fitness.

Added Taylor: "He's now restarting again to get himself match fit, I want him 100 per cent fit because if he is he's a very important player for us.

"I have no doubt that we will get there but we just had a blip last week."

Kent unveils first ever female president for 2015

LADY Kingsdown OBE, Rose Leigh-Pemberton, is to make history next year after it was confirmed she will become Kent County Cricket Club's president for 2015.

In doing so, she becomes the first woman to hold the position in the club's 145-year history.

She is certainly no stranger to the club - she is the widow of Lord Kingsdown, the Bank of England governor and another former president of the county side.

Speaking this week, she said: "I am honoured and delighted by this appointment.

"Kent Cricket has been an important part of my life ever since I became engaged to my late husband nearly 62 years ago now.

"To be president of Kent is the next greatest honour to being given the



PRESIDENT: Lady Kingsdown

OBE by the Queen.

"Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined that I would hold this

post and I will do my utmost to uphold all the fine traditions of the club at the same time endeavouring to be sure that we move with the times.

"We are in exciting times with many good young homegrown players and our women's team a beacon in the game."

The mother-of-four lives on the family's estate near Sittingbourne and is a vice-president of Kent's official charity Demelza.

She replaces outgoing president Graham Johnson who will step down from the one-year role at the AGM in the spring.

He added: "She cherishes all that is best about our cricket heritage as well as having a desire to see Kent cricket develop to meet the opportunities the future presents. Above all she is a genuine Kent enthusiast and cricket fan."

Sport Shorts

» Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk or call Jamie Weir on 01233 653481

Roar of the engines as Speedfest returns again

A MAJOR festival of American motors, music and racing will return to Brands Hatch this summer, it has been confirmed.

American SpeedFest will take place at the West Kingsdown circuit on June 7 for its third consecutive year at the circuit.

The event brings to Britain authentic US-style stock car racing with the only NASCAR race series sanctioned outside North America, the NASCAR Whelen Euro Series, plus the thunderous American classic muscle cars of Bernie's V8s.

There's also displays of more than 1,000 American cars, bikes and trucks, including famous Hollywood movie cars; monster truck shows and passenger rides; stunt shows on the ground and in the air; live music, with bands and tribute acts.

Those who purchase an admission ticket before January 31 2015 can take advantage of a special offer and receive a grandstand seat free of charge, choosing between the Paddock Hill Bend and Pit Straight stands.

Under 13s go free-of-charge.



ON YOUR MARKS: American racers head back to Brands



BOSS: Jamie Day moved from Welling to Ebbsfleet earlier this month

Day admits to 'strange week' in Fleet hotseat

EBBSFLEET United's new boss Jamie Day says he wants his team to play in the "right way and entertain".

Day jumped ship from neighbours Welling to drop down to the Conference South and plot the Fleet's return to the top non-league division.

But hopes his first game would be against his former charges in the FA Trophy replay were scuppered in bizarre fashion as a power outage at Welling's Park View Road meant the game had to be postponed.

It meant his first game in charge

was this weekend's clash with Weston-super-Mare.

Writing in the match day programme, Day said: "It's been a strange week.

"I want us to express ourselves in the right way and entertain those who come to watch us, so they come back.

"I've come into this job knowing the majority of the players or at least what they can do, but it's a clean slate for every one of them, every one of the boys in this squad will have a chance to earn their place in the starting XI."

Billings gets World Cup call-up

KENT'S Sam Billings is one step closer to his dream of playing cricket for England.

The wicketkeeper-batsman is part of England's provisional 30-man World Cup squad, after being called up when Craig Kieswetter was ruled out through injury.

The 23-year-old has also just spent three weeks with the England

Performance Programme (EPP) in Sri Lanka.

Following an intensive three-week training camp in Sri Lanka, Billings and a select group of others have travelled to South Africa, to team up with the pace bowlers.

He said: "It's been brilliant. It's a great environment to be a part of and it's my first time away."

Keep up-to-date with all Kent's sports news via social media on:
 Twitter @KentSport Facebook www.facebook.com/kentsport.3

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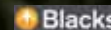


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Representative example

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Subaru XV 2.0D SE fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km): Urban from 41.5 (6.8). Extra Urban from 56.5 (5.0). Combined 50.4 (5.6). CO2 emissions from 146 (g/km). www.subaru.co.uk

Price shown is for the XV 2.0D SE Manual, manufacturer's on the road price £23,995.00. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months road fund licence and first registration fee. Finance available subject to status to persons aged 18 and over. The final payment is payable one month after the final monthly payment. Excludes motability, fleet and BASC Members Affinity Scheme sales. Available at participating dealers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Prices and deals correct at time of going to press. www.subaru.co.uk. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Subaru Finance is a trading style of International Motors Finance Limited, registered office at Charterhall House, Charterhall Drive, Chester, Cheshire, CH88 3AN. We may receive commission or other benefits for introducing you to Subaru Finance. Offer ends 31st December 2014. †The Subaru XV is covered by a 5 Year / 100,000 mile (whichever is sooner) Limited Warranty which comprises of a standard 3 Year / 60,000 mile (whichever is sooner) Manufacturer's Warranty (bumper to bumper, excluding clutch driven plate) and an Extended Warranty (applies to powertrain only) provided by the importer, Subaru (UK) Ltd, for up to a total of 5 Years or 100,000 miles (whichever occurs first). All vehicle bodywork is covered by a 12 Year Anti-Corrosion Warranty and paintwork is covered by a 3 Year Warranty. Added reassurance is provided by a comprehensive 3 Year Recovery and Assistance Programme valid in the UK only. For general terms and conditions visit www.subaru.co.uk.



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